



Daily Report

Latin America

FBIS-LAT-90-242
Monday
17 December 1990

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CONTENTS

17 December 1990

NOTICE TO READERS: An * indicates material not disseminated in electronic form.

INTER-AMERICAN AFFAIRS

Calderon Opens Puntarenas Central American Summit [San Jose Radio]	1
Further on Presidents' Summit [AFP]	2
Salvadoran Conflict Said Greatest Obstacle [AFP]	2
Cerezo on Talks With Guerrillas [Hamburg DPA]	3
Integration of Bush Initiative Suggested [Hamburg DPA]	4
Summary of Andean Pact Summit Discussions [EL DIARIO 30 Nov]	4
Weekly Roundup on Drug Seizures Published [EL TIEMPO 5 Dec. etc.]	4

CARIBBEAN

Cuba

Iraqi Ambassador Praises Persian Gulf Stand [Havana TV]	6
'Peasant Patrols,' Interior Ministry Fight Crime [Havana Radio]	6
Former Customs Chief Convicted of Embezzlement [Havana TV]	6
Authorities Deny Reported Government Art Sales [Havana TV]	6
First Locally Built Tanker Launched in Cardenas [Havana TV]	7
Episcopal Church Asks U.S. To End Blockade [Havana TV]	7
New TV Equipment for Use in Pan-Am Games [Havana TV]	7
Risquet Travels to France for Communist Congress [Havana TV]	7

Bahamas

3,000 Pounds of Marijuana Seized, Arrests Made [CANA]	7
---	---

Barbados

Sandiford Signs 30-Million Pound Loan Agreement [CANA]	8
--	---

Bermuda

Walter Maddocks Appointed Attorney General [CANA]	8
---	---

Dominican Republic

Opposition Spokesman Reports Arrest of 10 Leaders [Santo Domingo Radio]	8
Police Chief Announces Internal Appointments [Santo Domingo Radio]	8

Haiti

International Observers Give Victory to Aristide [Mexico City NOTIMEX]	9
CANA Profiles Frontrunner Father Aristide	9
Official CEP Election Results Awaited [Port-au-Prince Radio]	10
Aristide Leads in Vote Count; Bazin Second [Bonaire Radio]	10
Exit Polls Show Aristide Leading in Cities [AFP]	10
Large Voter Turnout, Calm Elections Noted [AFP]	10
15,000 Aristide Supporters Attend Rally [CANA]	11
Shortage of Grande Saline Polling Places Cited [Port-au-Prince Radio]	12
Armed Forces Issue Election Eve Appeal [Port-au-Prince Radio]	12
Army Issues Voter Safety Guidelines [Port-au-Prince Radio]	12

Precautionary Measure Taken Before Elections	12
Army Closes Dominican Border [Port-au-Prince Radio]	12
Restrictions on Alcohol Sales, Firearms [Port-au-Prince Radio]	12
Police Issue Traffic Regulations [Port-au-Prince Radio]	13
International Flights Suspended [Madrid EFE]	13
Voting Sites Open Following Lifting of Curfew [Madrid EFE]	13
Confusion, Delays Reported After Polls Open [Madrid EFE]	14
Voting Extended to 17 Dec [Hamburg DPA]	14
Port-au-Prince Voters Protest Glitches at Polls [Madrid EFE]	14
Several Bureaus Without Bailots [Port-au-Prince Radio]	14
Some Municipal, Casac Elections Postponed [Port-au-Prince Radio]	15
Voters Protest Absence of Ballots in Cite Soleil [Port-au-Prince Radio]	15
Police Riot Squads Summoned [CANAL]	15
Attack on Presidential Candidate Reported [Hamburg DPA]	16
Press Agency Reports Calm Election Atmosphere [Port-au-Prince Radio]	16
Official Comments on Ballots Found in Street [Port-au-Prince Radio]	16
CEP Announces Elections Might Be Extended [Madrid EFE]	17
Radio Nationale Cites AFP on Election Progress	17
CEP, Party Officials Hold News Conference [Port-au-Prince Radio]	17
CEP Official Comments on Election Progress [Port-au-Prince]	18
Ministers Satisfied With Elections, Praise Army [Port-au-Prince Radio]	18
Radio Reports 'Calm' in Grand'Anse Voting [Port-au-Prince Radio]	18
Bureaus Reported Unable To Control Voters [Port-au-Prince Radio]	19
Bomb Squad Defuses Device in ANDP Office [CANAL]	19
CEP Bans Campaigning, Unofficial Count Reports [Port-au-Prince Radio]	19
Aristide Election Campaign Ends With Rally [Port-au-Prince Radio]	20
Monsignor Clarifies Church's Stance on Elections [Port-au-Prince Radio]	20
Disqualified Presidential Candidate Arrested [Port-au-Prince Radio]	21
Government Retires Two Manigat Appeal Judges [Port-au-Prince Radio]	21
Suspect Arrested During Funeral Found Innocent [Port-au-Prince Radio]	21
De Ronceray and Lafontant Form Alliance [Port-au-Prince Radio]	21
Correction to Condemnation of Macoutes	21
Jamaica	
Governor Appoints New Police Commissioner [CANAL]	21
Montserrat	
Finance Minister Osborne Presents Budget [CANAL]	22
Trinidad and Tobago	
Steady Polling Reported in By-Election [CANAL]	22
Government Accused of 'Fixing' Statistics [CANAL]	22
Minister Says Economic Policies Showing Results [CANAL]	23
MEXICO	
PRI Group Forms Faction Called 'Democracy 2000' [NOTIMEX]	24
CENTRAL AMERICA	
Costa Rica	
Mexican Investment Promoted in Debt Deal [San Jose Radio]	25
El Salvador	
Jesuits Charge Army, U.S. With Not Cooperating [EL MUNDO 11 Dec]	25
Jesuit Provincial Head on Trial [San Salvador Radio]	26
FMLN: 32 Army Casualties in San Vicente [AFP]	26

Guatemala

Cerezo Views U.S. Military Aid, Strike [PRENSA LIBRE 13 Dec]	27
--	----

Honduras

Callejas Views Upcoming Summit, Violence [Tegucigalpa Radio]	27
Callejas Marks Armed Forces Anniversary [Tegucigalpa Radio]	28
Zepeda Submits List of Promotions in Armed Forces [EL HERALDO 7 Dec]	29
* Devaluation To Increase Customs Revenues [TIEMPO 16 Oct]	30

Nicaragua

Chamorro Signs Law Abolishing SMP Service [Mexico City NOTIMEX]	31
Military Budget Cut of \$19.6 Million Approved [AFP]	31
EPS Backs Chamorro Veto [ACAN]	31
Godoy: No Disputes With Chamorro 'in Principle' [San Jose LA NACION 3 Dec]	32
Mayors 'Satisfied' With Chamorro Compliance [Managua Radio]	33
Official Announces 'Changes' in Government [Managua Radio]	33
Telecommunications Employees Threaten To Strike [Managua Radio]	33
Strike Pending Meeting With Lacayo [Managua Radio]	33
UNO Deputy's Home Attacked; No Casualties [ACAN]	34
Arms Cache Found in Sabana Grande Area [Managua Radio]	34
Lacayo Announces Chamorro Plan To Visit USSR [Managua Radio]	34

Panama

Endara Discusses Resisting U.S. 'Pressure' [LA VANGUARDIA 29 Nov]	35
Endara Hopes To 'Never' Call U.S. Troops Again [ACAN]	36
Bush Remarks on U.S. Army Presence Criticized [LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA 16 Dec]	36
Endara Acknowledges Efforts of Public Force [Panama City TV]	37
Endara Lambastes Traitors, Coup Plotters [Panama City Radio]	37
Legislative Assembly Passes Bill Firing Workers	38
Demonstrators Chase Legislators [ACAN]	38
Calidonia Area Returning to Normal [Panama City Radio]	38
U.S. Colonel Said Involved [Panama City Radio]	39
Wrap-Up of Incidents at Assembly [LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA 15 Dec]	39
International Labor Protests Measure [LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA 16 Dec]	40
Archbishop on Options for Settling Labor Conflict [Panama City Radio]	41
Ford Says Government Not To Tolerate Anarchy [LA PRENSA 15 Dec]	41
Newspaper Says Government Has 'Second' Chance [CRITICA LIBRE 14 Dec]	42
U.S. Troops Allegedly Searching for Rebel Cells [EL DIARIO INDEPENDIENTE 15 Dec]	42
Chiriqui Prosecutor Denies Gaytan Made Calls [Panama City Radio]	42
Bernal Said To Feign Being Gaytan [EL DIARIO INDEPENDIENTE 15 Dec]	43
Batista Questions Existence of Rebel Movements [Panama City TV]	43
Weapons Confiscated in Veraguas Province [LA PRENSA 15 Dec]	44
Drug Dealers Reportedly Try To Buy Rifles [CRITICA LIBRE 12 Dec]	44
Journalists' Union Denounces Persecution [EL SIGLO 11 Dec]	44
Legislator Views Relations With Eastern Europe [EL DIARIO INDEPENDIENTE 12 Dec]	45

SOUTH AMERICA

Argentina

Menem, Lacalle Discuss GATT, Bush Visit [NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS]	46
Warships in Gulf To Return at End of Jan [BUENOS AIRES HERALD 14 Dec]	46
Editorial Analyzes Decision [BUENOS AIRES HERALD 15 Dec]	46
Destroyer, Corvette Scheduled To Leave for Gulf [BUENOS AIRES HERALD 15 Dec]	47
'Strict Preventive Imprisonment' for Seineldin [TELAM]	47

Deputy Manzano Reportedly Receives Death Threats	[Buenos Aires Radio]	47
Bonnet To Carry Out Death Sentences if Ordered	[NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS]	47
Menem Discusses Cabinet Support for Pardons	[NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS]	48
Official Lists Those To Be Pardoned	[Buenos Aires Radio]	48
Menem Losses in Recent Elections Cited	[BUENOS AIRES HERALD 16 Dec]	48
Article Examines Objectives of Liberation Party	[LA PRENSA 30 Nov]	49
Presidential Adviser Criticizes Bank Policy	[NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS]	50
Proposals on Halting Corruption To Be Presented	[NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS]	50
Construction Projects Accord Signed With Soviets	[TELAM]	51
Uruguay's Lacalle Arrives for Private Visit	[TELAM]	51

Bolivia

Senate President on U.S. Ambassador's Remarks	[PRESENCIA 5 Dec]	51
Senator on 'Annoyance' Over Promotions	[La Paz TV]	51
Station Comments on 'Mystery' Over Killings	[La Paz Radio]	52
Minister Terms Terrorism 'Threat to Society'	[La Paz Radio]	52
Antinarcotics Force Seizes Assets of Trafficker	[La Paz Radio]	53
Iturralde Confirms Closure of Embassy in Kuwait	[EL DIARIO 5 Dec]	53
FELCN Commander Reports on Drug Operations	[PRESENCIA 30 Nov]	53
Agreement on Controlling Drug Trafficking Signed	[PRESENCIA 29 Nov]	54
Police Reinforce Surveillance on Peruvian Border	[Madrid EFE]	55
Cooperation Agreements Signed With Ecuador	[PRESENCIA 29 Nov]	55
Netherlands Grants \$35-Million Fund	[La Paz TV]	55

Brazil

Manufacture of Chemical Weapons Discussed	[O GLOBO 14 Dec]	56
Landowner Found Guilty of Chico Mendes Murder	[Madrid EFE]	56
Trade Union Leader Killed in Pernambuco State	[Rio de Janeiro TV]	56
Budget Alters Plans in Armed Forces Services	[O GLOBO 9 Dec]	56
Work Programs Take Up Allocations	[O GLOBO 9 Dec]	57
Visit by Castro's Son Focuses on Nuclear Issues	[O GLOBO 14 Dec]	57
Interest in Nuclear Safety Noted	[Madrid EFE]	57
Agreement on Pro-Government Bloc Formalized	[O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO 12 Dec]	57
Salary Law Passed by Congress, Sent to President	[Brasilia Radio]	58
Two Killed in Clash Between Police, Squatters	[Madrid EFE]	58

Chile

2 Injured in Bomb Explosion at Bank in Santiago	[Santiago Radio]	59
Mormon Church, Railway Bombed	[Santiago Radio]	59
Terrorists Destroy Mormon Church	[Madrid EFE]	59
Silva Cimma on Relations With U.S., Europe	[Santiago Radio]	59
Cites Criteria for Cuban Relations	[Santiago Radio]	60
Silva Cimma Leaves for Rio Group-EEC Meeting	[Santiago Radio]	60
Retired Army Officers Arrested, Released on Bail	[Santiago Radio]	60
Judge Indicts Man in U.S. Consulate Incident	[Santiago Radio]	60
Communists Deny Charges of Ties to Armed Group	[Santiago Radio]	60
MIR Faction Leader Evaluates Movement	[HOY 26 Nov-2 Dec]	61
MIR Faction Formed: Objectives Released	[EL MERCURIO 5 Dec]	62
PPD Reportedly 2d Largest Political Force	[Santiago Radio]	62
Two Alleged Lautaro Youth Terrorists Arrested	[EL MERCURIO 24 Nov]	62
Extremist Killed in Clash Identified	[Santiago Radio]	62
Lautaro Group Hijacks Truck, Distributes Goods	[Santiago Radio]	63
National Group of Free Labor Unions Formed	[Santiago Radio]	63
Airline To Begin Charter Flights to Falklands	[Santiago Radio]	63
Accords on Housing, Culture Signed With Sweden	[Santiago Radio]	63
LA NACION Reporter Summoned by Prosecutor	[Santiago Radio]	63

Colombia

Minister Says Court Not Pressured by Traffickers [Bogota TV]	64
'Last' FARC Camp Said Secured in La Uribe [Bogota TV]	64
Gaviria Closes Congress Session, Warns Rebels [Bogota TV]	64
Extradited Citizen Criticizes U.S. Justice System [EL TIEMPO 9 Dec]	65
Car Bomb Explodes in Medellin, Injures 5 [AFP]	65
12 Killed, 16 Wounded in Medellin Massacre [Bogota Radio]	66
'Armed Individuals' Murder 7 in Puerto Belgica [Bogota Radio]	66
FARC Rebel Force Sets Aires Airplane on Fire [Bogota TV]	67
Patriotic Front Claims 70 Peasants 'Missing' [Bogota TV]	67
7 Men Killed by Presumed ELN Members [Bogota TV]	67

Paraguay

Minister To Request OAS Observers for Elections [ULTIMA HORA 14 Dec]	67
Foreign Minister To Visit Italy, Spain [HOY 15 Dec]	67
Senate Approves Apal Privatization Bill [ABC COLOR 14 Dec]	68

Peru

Gunmen Murder Change 90 Deputy in Lima [Madrid EFE]	68
U.S. Donates \$5 Million for Antidrug Effort [Lima TV]	68
1,500 People Said Killed in Political Violence [Madrid EFE]	68
Japanese Link With Shining Path 'Worrisome' [Lima TV]	68
* Shining Path's New York Spokesman Comments [EXPRESO 21 Oct]	69
\$40-Million Credit Line Established for Companies [Lima TV]	69
Committee on Telephone Taps for Political Use [Madrid EFE]	69
Congress Approves Budget Bill, Currency Change [Lima TV]	69
Fuel Prices Increase for Dealers, Public [Lima TV]	69
* Contention Noted Between Houses of Congress [EL COMERCIO 2 Nov]	70
* Senator Criticizes Change 90-APRA Alliance [EL COMERCIO 10 Nov]	70
* Chamber of Deputies' Decision Questioned [CARETAS 12 Nov]	70
* Fujimori Comments on Role of State, Media [CARETAS 29 Oct]	71

Uruguay

Details of Agreements With Banks Reported [Montevideo Radio]	72
Missionary Attacked for Work With Indians [Madrid EFE]	72

Venezuela

Perez Speech Upon Signing of State Reform Pact [Caracas TV]	72
---	----

Guyana

Possible Cabinet Reduction, Devaluation Hinted [CANAL]	73
Hoyte Orders Probe Into GTC Allegations [CANAL]	74

Calderon Opens Puntarenas Central American Summit
PA1612005090 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish
2144 GMT 15 Dec 90

[Speech by Costa Rican President Rafael Angel Calderon Fournier on the occasion of the opening of the Central American summit, at the Fiesta Hotel in Puntarenas, Costa Rica—live]

[Excerpts] [Words indistinct] of Central America, distinguished Central American first ladies, Mr. [name indistinct], former Costa Rican president Rodrigo Carazo, members of the state branches of the Central American countries and Panama, distinguished and honorable heads of diplomatic missions accredited to Costa Rica, ladies and gentlemen.

Peace is not merely the absence of wars, guerrilla warfare, and military [word indistinct]. Peace is the fruit of development in justice and freedom. Problems caused by democracy are solved within the democratic system.

Those who tried to develop their nations through authoritarian and totalitarian means are returning to democratic systems in various ways experiencing great traumas and disappointments. The struggle toward development should be democratic or else there will be no development. [sentence indistinct]

History has shown us the triumph and consolidation of pluralist, participative democratic systems [word indistinct] with social justice. Through painful experiences, the world has learned that despite their limitations, democratic systems are qualitatively better than dictatorial regimes, regardless of the doctrines that struggle to legitimize those dictatorships. [passage omitted]

It is not a matter of returning to the state of laissez-faire which consists of an end to meddling in the economic life of the country; however, we are working to seek a new equilibrium between the public and private sectors which will make it possible [words indistinct] of the productive forces.

[Words indistinct] which operated in the concentration centers [words indistinct] that is leading the centrally planned economic system.

Central Americans cannot continue to ignore the aforementioned reality and to treat the public matters as if they were not related to us. It is time for self-criticism. We must also establish to what degree our economic models have been contaminated by anachronistic formulas that are today falling apart.

Without defending the naive liberal doctrines proclaimed last century; without falling into the trap of the simple police state; without proposing the introduction of Manchesterism economic doctrines which view man as simple merchandise; and without adopting an opposition dogmatism which also demonstrated its [words indistinct] in the crisis of the thirties, we must recognize

the role played by the market as a useful tool for organizing production and fixing supply, demand, and the prices of goods.

Political experts and statesmen are gradually understanding that the best way to achieve development is to find a middle ground, within the framework of a market economy, guided by the orientation drive of a state that promotes development in a scenario of social guarantees and the participation of the people. This is the way to, at the least, attain development with social justice and humanitarianism.

Distinguished guests and Costa Rican friends, there are initiatives for development in the world. On behalf of Costa Rica I pay homage to George Bush, president of the United States of America, for his timely Enterprise for the Americas Initiative, which establishes the basis of a new era of cooperation and free trade in the common market of the American hemisphere.

There are peace sculptors in the world. As president of all Costa Ricans, I pay homage to Mikhail Gorbachev, Soviet president and 1990 Nobel Peace Prize laureate, for his historic contributions to world peace, freedom, and international detente.

There are also peace sculptors in Central America. In my capacity as Costa Rican president, I pay homage to Guatemalan President Marco Vinicio Cerezo Arevalo for his invaluable contributions to Central American peace, as one of the founders of the Esquipulas Process, host of the first two presidential summits, as well as architect and creator of the Central American Parliament. [applause]

Now that you, Mr. Marco Vinicio, are participating in a Central American summit as Guatemalan president for the last time, please receive our warmest and most sincere recognition for your honest work in favor of the causes of democracy, justice, and peace.

There are friends of Central America in the world, and as host of this summit, I will stress the prominent role played by three of our best friends. We recognize Mexican President Carlos Salinas de Gortari for his solidarity contribution to Central America and his visionary and futuristic role as liaison between North and South America. We know that his efforts in the free-trade negotiations with the United States and Canada will open the opportunity to strengthen the ties of friendship among Mexico, North America, and the Central American countries.

We recognize the record of Venezuelan President Carlos Andres Perez for always supporting the causes of freedom, democratization, and pacification of the Central American isthmus. We also want to thank him for the solidarity he has displayed with our countries by granting preferential treatment for payment of the oil bill.

We recognize Spanish President Felipe Gonzalez Marquez for the role he played, as a statesman, in the

modernization and the entry of his country into the European Community. We know that his program for the entry of our motherland into the European economy has also been conceived by Central American countries as a liaison and link with Europe.

Friends of the Central American fatherland, let us repeat it so that it will resound beyond Central America's borders: Peace is not simply the absence of war, guerrillas, or military conflicts. Peace is the fruit of development within justice and freedom. Without development there is no real peace or democracy. He who sows development will reap democracy and harmony.

The future of democracy in Central America demands development. This development must have a human face. It must first of all be the result of the Central Americans' own efforts and of a desire for economic unity in keeping with the current times; however, development must also stem from the solidarity aid of the most developed nations.

All the Central American people ask the powerful countries that are providing economic aid to the European countries which are on the path of democratization not to forget the developing nations.

Peace does not involve just a few people. Peace involves everyone. As Central Americans, let us march united toward a future of genuine democracy and development with a human face. Thank you very much.

Further on Presidents' Summit

PA1612013090 Paris AFP in Spanish 2315 GMT
15 Dec 90

[Text] Puntarenas, Costa Rica, 15 Dec (AFP)—The presidents of Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras, Nicaragua, Costa Rica, and Panama arrived at Puntarenas Port on the Costa Rican Pacific coast in the afternoon of 15 December to inaugurate the 9th Central American summit since the signing of the Esquipulas II Agreement in August 1987. The Puntarenas summit discussions will focus on the region's main economic and political problems.

After their arrival in San Jose, the Central American presidents, except for Salvadoran President Alfredo Cristiani, were taken to Puntarenas, 120 km west of San Jose, by Nicaraguan Air Force helicopters. The helicopters were offered to the Costa Rican Government for this occasion.

Upon his arrival in Puntarenas, President Cristiani, who flew directly from San Salvador, stated that the Salvadoran conflict "is unfortunately the main obstacle for Central America's political stabilization."

During a news conference held before the official inauguration of the summit, Cristiani said that although the Salvadoran situation is not the only political problem in the region, it is "the focal and most important" point that the presidents will discuss at this summit, which is scheduled to conclude on Monday, 17 December.

The Salvadoran president asserted that the guerrilla offensive launched by the leftist Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN) on 20 November "is a sign that the guerrilla movement has not been sincere" in its previous dialogue proposals. He added: "What it seeks is to increase violence."

Cristiani also described the rebel proposal to dismantle the Salvadoran Army as "unacceptable," although he insisted that his government would agree to a "qualitative and quantitative reform" of the Armed Forces.

Guatemalan President Vinicio Cerezo voiced his concern over the prolongation and worsening of the Salvadoran conflict and indicated that this will be one of the main topics of discussion at the summit.

After stating that the Central American presidents will also talk about regional environmental problems, structural changes in their economies, and development, Cerezo asserted: "We are willing to continue working to solve our common problems through joint actions that respect each country's individuality."

Honduran President Rafael Leonardo Callejas said he is "optimistic" about the possibility of this new summit "giving shape to the fraternity and peace objectives" established in the Esquipulas II Agreement.

Panamanian President Guillermo Endara, who for the second time is attending a Central American summit as an "observer," said he hopes his country will "get closer" to the remaining isthmian countries "to which we are already linked through our friendship."

Nicaraguan President Violeta Chamorro enthusiastically greeted the press gathered at the Fiesta Hotel in Puntarenas, the venue of the summit, but avoided making statements regarding the negotiation process. She only said that she is "very pleased" to attend this summit with her colleagues.

Chamorro traveled to Puntarenas accompanied by Nicaraguan Presidency Minister and "trusted man" Antonio Lacayo. Her delegation also includes Nicaraguan Ambassador to Costa Rica Alfonso Robelo.

According to a document previously drafted by the Central American foreign and economy ministers during the last two days, the Puntarenas summit will cover a lengthy agenda that includes such topics as Central American economic integration, trade policies with countries outside the region, the foreign debt, drug trafficking, and environmental conservation.

Salvadoran Conflict Said Greatest Obstacle

PA1712033790 Paris AFP in Spanish 0200 GMT
17 Dec 90

[Text] Puntarenas, Costa Rica, 16 Dec (AFP)—Costa Rican President Rafael Angel Calderon announced today the adoption of "a new formula and a specific plan of action" to forge a prompt negotiated solution to the

Salvadoran civil war within the framework of the Esquipulas II regional agreements.

During a news conference held at the Fiesta Hotel in Puntarenas, where the 9th Central American presidential summit is being held, Calderon admitted that the Salvadoran conflict continues to be the greatest obstacle for stable peace in the region and said he hopes that "in the next few months we will be able to find a peaceful solution."

Calderon supported his optimism by adding that the Puntarenas summit "has approved an agreement in principle" on the Salvadoran issue. However, he refused to provide further details because he had promised his colleagues that he would not.

The Costa Rican president described "the escalation of violence" unleashed by the leftist Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front in the past three weeks as "unacceptable," and warned that as long as the rebels continue to refuse to talk, "they will receive our strongest condemnation."

Calderon also said that the Central American presidents believe that an official visit by Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev to Central America next year will contribute decisively, to "total pacification" of the isthmus.

"Gorbachev possesses the influence and moral authority to ask the groups that practice violence to end it," Calderon stressed. The Costa Rican president added that the formal invitation to the Soviet leader to visit Central America will be made by Nicaraguan President Violeta Chamorro during her February trip to Moscow.

President Calderon was also very optimistic regarding the progress made in the matter of economic integration of Central American countries within the framework of Esquipulas, and added that new regional agreements on this matter would be announced on 17 December.

Calderon said that despite the persistent military tensions in some countries in the area, the future Central American presidential summits must be more economic in nature.

"In the future, these summits will delve more on economic and development matters because we are obliged to show the Central American people that democracy is the best way to solve their problems and needs." If we were to fail in this, "we could go back to having serious political problems in the region," Calderon said.

Cerezo on Talks With Guerrillas

PA161204990 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 0147 GMT
16 Dec 90

[Text] Puntarenas, Costa Rica, 15 Dec (DPA)—Guatemalan President Vinicio Cerezo said in Puntarenas today that a commission of the Guatemalan Government will meet soon with guerrilla representatives to begin a peace dialogue.

The president said the meeting might be held between the end of December and the beginning of January somewhere in Central America. He refused to disclose the specific location.

The Guatemalan National Revolutionary Unity, formed by the four guerrilla groups that operate in Guatemala, has been holding a series of meetings with Guatemalan political, trade union, business, and religious sectors since April.

The contacts form part of a dialogue agenda which was drawn up in Oslo in March under the sponsorship of the National Reconciliation Commission and which should culminate with direct talks between the rebels, the government, and the Army.

Cerezo indicated that the government commission and the guerrillas will analyze how much has been achieved with the so-called "Oslo process" as well as the possibilities that the next administration that takes office in the country on 14 January will establish a direct dialogue.

"We will make efforts so that prior to the conclusion of my term, we will have concluded the first part of the process of talks agreed upon in Norway," Cerezo added.

Regarding the case of the three Panamanian officers who were involved in the recent rebellion led by former Panama Police Chief Eduardo Herrera and who took refuge in the Guatemalan Embassy in Panama City, Cerezo said his government accepted them in view of Guatemala's respect for the "right to asylum."

In this regard, Cerezo expressed hope that the democratization process in Panama will be "strengthened," and he described as "opportune" the intervention of U.S. troops to put down the rebellion by Herrera and other officers on 5 December. Nevertheless, he said he hopes such an intervention will not be necessary in the future.

Referring to this, Panamanian President Guillermo Endara has said he "will never again" request the participation of U.S. soldiers if a similar incident occurs.

Cerezo, who is participating in the Central American presidential summit that began today, said the Salvadoran case is one of the points that must be addressed by the meeting in view of the situation of conflict in that nation.

It has been learned that at the end of the summit on 17 December, the presidents will draft an annex to the final declaration with a statement on the Salvadoran situation.

Cerezo also said that in the summit, his country will insist focusing on the ecological issue, as Costa Rica will do by presenting a proposal to establish a "new order" on ecological issues. Guatemala will also stress the need to unify viewpoints to facilitate the export of Central American products.

Cerezo also called for a review of the progress achieved with the Economic Action Plan for Central America,

whose implementation was agreed upon in the last regional summit held in Guatemala in June.

Integration of Bush Initiative Suggested

PA1512150690 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 1734 GMT
14 Dec 90

[Text] Caracas, 14 Dec (DPA)—Carlos Perez del Castillo, Latin American Economic System's (SELA) permanent secretary, has said that despite the favorable forecasts of international financial organizations, Latin American nations have remained submerged in economic disorder; however, Del Castillo added, the initiative of U.S. President Bush, the Americas Initiative, is not the region's only solution.

The integration of the Americas Initiative with SELA's proposal to reduce the transfer of capital abroad would considerably reduce the region's foreign debt. The regional foreign debt amounts to over \$400 billion.

One of the key advantages of the Americas Initiative is the eventual reduction of the region's foreign debt to the United States.

Perez del Castillo also proposed—under the umbrella of Bush's plan—that the regulations of crediting banks be modified. This modification would allow losses resulting from foreign debts to be absorbed with greater ease. This alternative had already been proposed by SELA during a regional conference on foreign debt in Caracas in mid-1990.

Perez del Castillo, after stressing that this year SELA had bolstered its role as a regional organization for consultation and cooperation, assessed that, in 1991, Latin American debt would grow by seven percent as a result of recapitalization late payments and debt revaluation.

Summary of Andean Pact Summit Discussions

PY1612024490 La Paz EL DIARIO in Spanish
30 Nov 90 p 1

[Excerpts] The presidents of Bolivia, Colombia, Venezuela, Peru, and Ecuador will sign the "Declaration of La Paz" today. The opposition to harmonizing economic policies was overcome. The Bolivian Congress will welcome the presidents in a special session. The Confederation of Andean Private Businessmen was also created.

Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, Venezuela, and Bolivia will put the Andean market into operation. This will create a new opening without precedent in the region, a new economic structure that will allow integration at all levels in answer to the new international situation. [passage omitted]

Foreign Minister Carlos Iturralde has reported that "systematic" opposition to fitting together economic policies was overcome after an explanation by economic ministers.

The "Strategic Design," meaning that the Andean market should be consolidated in the competitive context of market forces, was discussed in the first presidential session.

At a press conference last night, the foreign minister also mentioned a series of complementary agreements for better treatment of issues between the Andean governments.

—The Andean Strategy of Integration and Production Modernization was approved.

—Cooperation in the energy area was mentioned.

—A report on food security was presented.

—The fight against drug trafficking was considered, and the Permanent Coordination and Consultation Group was formed.

—A report was presented on the last meeting of transport ministers, where 52 resolutions beneficial to the subregion were adopted.

—Tasks for manufacturing vaccines for large-scale use were distributed and industrial capabilities were assessed.

—A report on joint international relations was presented.

—The Cartagena Agreement Commission reported on the approval of eight decisions: 1) Designation of a new Cartagena Board member; 2) The starting point for the elimination of tariffs on products excluded from the reserve list; 3) The Andean road system; 4) The adherence of Venezuela and Bolivia to customs and commerce taxes; 5) The modification of levels in the common market area, and Ecuador's application of the interests list for Colombia, Peru, and Venezuela; and 6) The suspension of Article 83 in Decision 85 and extension of the Andean program against the coffee borer and coffee rust.

Weekly Roundup on Drug Seizures Published

PA1712030890

[Editorial Report] Following is a compilation of reports on drug seizures and arrests related to drug trafficking in bureau coverage area from 10 to 16 December 1990. Source follows in parentheses after each item.

COLOMBIA

The Armed Forces has found overwhelming evidence linking the National Liberation Army with drug trafficking in Arauca. The soldiers discovered two camps with chemicals for cocaine processing and destroyed five hectares of cocaine leaves during "Operation Pegaso," in the vast jungle area near Arauquita. (Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 5 Dec 90 p 13B)

The Presidential Press Secretary has disclosed that during the first 11 months of 1990, 44,661 kg of cocaine,

864 weapons, 34 aircraft, 35 ships, and 300 automobiles have been seized, and 2,571 persons were arrested. The authorities also confiscated 533.6 tons of coca leaves, 645.2 tons of marijuana, and 5.7 tons of coca paste, and destroyed 760 hectares of coca and 36 hectares of marijuana. (Paris AFP in Spanish 0322 GMT 14 Dec 90)

A presidential report released on 15 December disclosed that in the last six years Colombian authorities have seized 109.6 tons of cocaine valued at \$2.8 billion dollars in the U.S. market, which is 15 percent of the foreign debt. During this lapse of time 22,148 alleged drug traffickers were arrested and 3,652 weapons, 125 aircraft, and 171 ships were seized. (Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 1856 GMT 15 Dec 90)

The antinarcotics police confiscated on 16 December 46 kg of cocaine and arrested a Peruvian pilot—Juan Manuel Garcia Garcia—and three Colombians—Hector Murcia, Raimundo Gutierrez, and Jorge Leyva—when they landed on an air strip near Guamo, 180 km west of Bogota. (Paris AFP in Spanish 1943 GMT 16 Dec 90)

COSTA RICA

Because of a lack of security measures Costa Rica continues to serve as a bridge for drug trafficking to the United States. Approximately 200 tons of cocaine come in from Colombia and Panama by air, water, and land. During the past 11 months the narcotics department of the Judicial Investigation Agency (OIJ) has seized 707 kg of cocaine and has arrested over 100 drug traffickers, nationals and foreigners, the majority of whom are Colombians and Panamanians. (San Jose LA REPUBLICA in Spanish 2 Dec 90 p 100)

ECUADOR

Acting Government Minister announced the following seizures and arrest during a huge operation by Interpol. "Interpol seized on 3 December 230 kg of cocaine to be shipped to the United States." During this huge operation Interpol arrested six drug traffickers, five Ecuadorians, and one Colombian. According to investigations this would be part of a 500-kg shipment originating from Colombia and brought in through the Esmeralda Province. Drugs were found at the Mariquita and San Pedro Farm, located 12 km from Quevedo. In another operation in Guayaquil, Interpol searched Jose Antonio Matta Brookman's house where 20 kg of cocaine was found. (Quito Radio Quito in Spanish 2300 GMT 10 Dec 90)

MEXICO

A Red Cross official reported that alleged drug traffickers have ambushed two antinarcotics federal police officers in a eastern neighborhood of Mexico City. One died and the other was seriously wounded. After the shoot-out the drug traffickers escaped in the police vehicle, taking with them the officers' weapons as well. (Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2316 11 Dec 90)

The Attorney General's Office reported on 15 December that in the last 72 hours, antinarcotics police and soldiers destroyed 57 hectares of marijuana and of poppy, in Chihuahua, Guerrero, Sinaloa, Durango, Oaxaca, Altamirano, Chilpancingo, and the region known as "El Caracol." (Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2036 GMT 15 Dec 90)

Judicial federal police officers in Tijuana seized \$1.6 million of drug money in cash, at the La Mesa money exchange office, owned by Librado Lizarraga Noriega, which is used for money laundering. Alleged drug traffickers Valentin Salazar, Antonio Casa, and Amador Mesas were arrested. Librado Lizarraga declared that he received instructions from Valentin Salazar to transfer large sums of money to banks in Michoacan and Los Angeles, California. (Mexico City XHTV Television in Spanish 0200 GMT 13 Dec 90)

PANAMA

The customs office seized on 12 December at Tocumen airport 36 kg of pure cocaine, valued over \$1.5 million. The drug was found in a box with 36 packages, saturated with cucumber cream, in the cargo section of the Challenger company. The drug was destined for Miami. (Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 2300 GMT 13 Dec 90)

VENEZUELA

Former Colombian Colonel Ivan Gonzalez, a suspected drug trafficker, was arrested at the Caracas Hilton upon his return from Miami by antinarcotics and intelligence authorities. Gonzalez was arrested with five others, Arnulfo Galiano Rodriguez, Colombian, 37; Jose Humberto Nieto Aparicio, Venezuelan, 30; Antonio Maria Perez Vargas, Venezuela, 31; Jose Luis Duque Blanco, Venezuelan, 37; Luis Omar Monte Carrero, Colombian, 40; and Humberto Jose Silva Caldera, Venezuela, 37. All were involved in a shipment of 262 kg of cocaine which was seized by the National Guard. (Caracas EL UNIVERSAL in Spanish 3 Dec 90)

Cuba

Iraqi Ambassador Praises Persian Gulf Stand

*FL1512022090 Havana Television Service
in Spanish 0100 GMT 15 Dec 90*

[Interview with Iraqi Ambassador to Cuba Walid 'Abbud 'Abbas by Juan Perez Dominguez at the Iraqi Embassy in Havana; date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Perez] As you know, the crisis that has developed concerning Iraq and Kuwait and the presence of hundreds of thousands of U.S. troops in the Persian Gulf region has created a situation of constant anticipation in the international community. Iraqi Ambassador to Cuba Walid 'Abbud 'Abbas has agreed to talk to the Cuban Television news services about these subjects and the outlook for talks to avoid the outbreak of a war in the region, which would harm everyone.

[‘Abbas, in Arabic with simultaneous translation into Spanish] We will say that the dialogue should be active, but we reject that Washington should dictate to us the date [words indistinct] that it should occur. President Saddam Husayn proposed 12 January 1990 [date as heard]. We are the originators of the idea that there should be talks; it was not President Bush. In any case, the important thing is not who proposes the dialogue; the important thing is that the dialogue should serve to choose another way that is not the way of war.

Therefore, it must be serious and profound, and it must not consist only of formal meetings to try to influence public opinion in the United States and internationally. Iraq has demanded that the peaceful solution must be based on the initiative presented by President Saddam Husayn on 12 August 1990, which is based on a global solution to all the region's problems, especially the Palestinian problem, the problem of the Arab occupied territories in Palestine, as well as in Syria and southern Lebanon.

[Perez] What is the current situation in Iraq as a result of the measures decreed by the United Nations, especially concerning medicines, and particularly medical care for children?

[‘Abbas] The restrictions imposed by the United States with the aim of banning imports of milk for children have forced the Iraqi authorities to suspend the guarantee of milk for newborns. As a result, this has led to a rise in the infant mortality rate because of poor nutrition. This is similar in the case of medicines, which has brought the same consequences with regard to ill people of various ages.

We want to express our respect for the Republic of Cuba, and we reiterate our high opinion of the stable positions of principle adopted by Cuba, which has rejected the presence of foreign troops in the region and the military solution, and worked for a political solution through its activity within the Security Council and outside it.

[Perez] We thank Iraqi Ambassador Walid 'Abbud 'Abbas for his words for the Cuban Television news services.

'Peasant Patrols,' Interior Ministry Fight Crime

*FL1512175590 Havana Radio Progreso Network
in Spanish 1725 GMT 15 Dec 90*

[Text] Some 72,000 peasants from the entire country are currently part of peasant patrols. This movement is aimed at cooperating with the Interior Ministry in the fight against various crimes, especially economic ones. The peasant patrols, which total around 6,000, are also working to prevent criminal activity, such as the sale of stolen articles and serving as intermediaries for the acquisition of agricultural goods.

Former Customs Chief Convicted of Embezzlement

*FL1712135690 Havana Tele Rebelde Network
in Spanish 1200 GMT 17 Dec 90*

[Text] Felipe Rodriguez Miranda, former chief of customs of the Varadero International Airport, has been sentenced to 10 years' imprisonment at the conclusion of his trial for embezzlement. He was also sentenced to two years for illegal trafficking in foreign exchange.

In the same trial, which took place in the People's Tribunal of Matanzas and lasted over 10 hours, Ana Leisa Rodriguez Rodriguez, former chief of the economic department of the area's customs delegation, was also sentenced. She received eight years' imprisonment for embezzlement, and six months for the illegal possession of foreign exchange.

Lisardo Herrera was also sentenced to two years and six months for illegal trafficking in foreign exchange and profiteering. As an additional penalty, cash, foreign exchange, and electrical appliances were seized from the accused. Five other defendants were sanctioned with fines ranging from 200 to 900 pesos.

Authorities Deny Reported Government Art Sales

*FL1412192190 Havana Tele Rebelde Network
in Spanish 1800 GMT 14 Dec 90*

[Text] False reports concerning the sale of valuable art objects by the Cuban Government have been denied by cultural heritage authorities. The fact is that Cuba sold only four canvases from a collection of 36 works by Valencian painter Joaquin Sorolla, for the purpose of using the acquired funds to obtain air conditioning and protection systems for the National Museum and the Jose Marti National Library.

The Fine Arts Museum contains important collections, including the British, French, and Spanish collections, the latter being among the most valuable, and it continues to obtain outstanding works from all parts of the world. Considered one of the best museums in Latin

America, it also contains collections of antique, European, and 15th-19th century art, and above all, Cuban paintings, including originals dating from the 16th century to the present.

First Locally Built Tanker Launched in Cardenas

*FL1412190190 Havana Tele Rebelde Network
in Spanish 1800 GMT 14 Dec 90*

[Text] The first tanker-barge built in Cuba was launched a few days ago in the Victoria de Giron shipyard in Cardenas. The Laica Cosuno is the first of three units to be delivered to the Matanzas oil industry by the end of 1991. It has a length of 40 meters, a breadth of 9.6 meters, and a cargo capacity of 420 tons. It can reach a cruising speed of nine knots, and can be crewed by 11 men, including the captain.

Comfort and beauty are part of the characteristics of the vessel, which shows that we Cubans can achieve greater development in naval construction. The total cost of the vessel built in Cardenas is no more than 1.25 million pesos, only 10 percent of which was paid in foreign exchange. In other countries, vessels of this type cost more than \$1.7 or \$1.8 million.

[Begin unidentified worker recording] It is the first ship to be built under the classification of an international association, namely the Soviet Ship Registry. This experience was a challenge to the entire group of workers of the enterprise in the areas of learning, assimilation of new technology, and working with new, exacting rules concerning the quality of the vessel. [end recording]

Episcopal Church Asks U.S. To End Blockade

*FL1512130090 Havana Tele Rebelde Network
in Spanish 1200 GMT 15 Dec 90*

[Text] The Latin American Episcopal Church has asked the United States to immediately end the economic blockade imposed against Cuba and to allow a [words indistinct] participation of our country in the American continent community. The request was made during the religious institution's 11th synod. The religious organization is seated in San Pedro Sula, located in northern Honduras. It was mentioned during the discussions that the blockade actions imposed by successive U.S. Administrations for over 25 years harm the Cuban people.

New TV Equipment for Use in Pan-Am Games

*FL1512133590 Havana Tele Rebelde Network
in Spanish 1200 GMT 15 Dec 90*

[Text] The Cuban television will use new, modern equipment during the Pan-American Games. This was announced by Juan Hernandez, vice president of the ICRT [Cuban Institute of Radio and Television]. The new equipment will later be used by the television services.

Hernandez said these replacements will improve productions, especially those shot outside, because the investments were made basically in remote control and related equipment.

Hernandez, who is also president of the Radio and Television Commission of the Havana 91 Pan-American Committee, announced that a channel will broadcast some 14 hours a day of live and simultaneous sports events during the games.

Risquet Travels to France for Communist Congress

*FL1712145190 Havana Tele Rebelde Network
in Spanish 1100 GMT 17 Dec 90*

[Text] Jorge Risquet Valdes, member of the Politburo of the Communist Party of Cuba [PCC], has arrived in Paris to attend the 27th Congress of the French Communist Party that begins tomorrow. Risquet heads the Cuban delegation that was invited to the congress. Other members of the delegation are Armando Garcia, an official of the PCC Central Committee, and Fernando Flores Ibarra, Cuban ambassador to France.

Bahamas

3,000 Pounds of Marijuana Seized, Arrests Made

*FL1412222690 Bridgetown CANA in English
2046 GMT 14 Dec 90*

[Text] Nassau, Bahamas, Dec. 14, CANA—The Bahamas Police Drug Unit and the United States Drug Enforcement Administration have seized more than 3,000 pounds of marijuana in the past 12 months, Police Commissioner B.K. Bonamy said here. They also developed five separate conspiracy cases involving about 30 Bahamians, and so far nine people have been arrested including public officers, he said.

Bonamy said that the seizure and arrests were the result of undercover operations in New Providence, the principal island in the Bahamas, and some of the Family Islands by Bahamas and U.S. anti-drug units. Those people who have been arrested will be charged with conspiracy to import dangerous drugs, with intent to supply, and possession of dangerous drugs.

But the commissioner notes that despite the successes so far, there are still drugs on the streets of the Bahamas. Last week, he said, 37 kilos of cocaine were seized in Nassau.

"We are serious about drug trafficking in the Bahamas and we intend to get to the very root of this situation," said Bonamy. During the 1980's, drug trafficking adversely affected almost all strata of Bahamian society. However, in the last couple of years, the Bahamas has cracked down on the trade, scoring major successes.

Barbados**Sandiford Signs 30-Million Pound Loan Agreement***FL1412231890 Bridgetown CANA in English
2116 GMT 14 Dec 90*

[Text] Bridgetown, Barbados, Dec. 14, CANA—Prime Minister Erskine Sandiford said his signing of a 30 million pounds sterling loan agreement in London Friday was an achievement in terms of Barbados' successful entry into international financial markets. Sandiford said it was a signal development that Barbados was entering the long-term sterling bond market for the first time since independence in 1966, the government information service reported here.

Speaking after signing the loan agreement with merchant bankers Barclays de Zoete Wedd, Sandiford said the possible graduation of Barbados from the World Bank next year caused the government to "take prudent precautions by seeking to diversify our sources of foreign capital."

The prime minister hailed the first experience with the market as a success, saying the funds mature in 25 years, which closely matches the payback period of most socioeconomic projects, and that no other developing country has made such a bond market issue since 1988.

"The response of the investors is a vote of confidence in our economic management," Sandiford said. Interest payment on the loan, at 13.5 percent per annum, will increase Barbados' annual debt service by 4.05 million pounds, and its current expenditure by about 1.5 percent, the prime minister said.

"These are manageable increases bearing in mind that we need foreign financial resources to assist in our development," Sandiford said. The funds are intended to meet foreign input components of a number of capital projects here. As a condition of the agreement, Barbados will set aside 25 percent of the loan principal in foreign currency for a period of not less than three years, as a repurchase fund.

The Parliamentary opposition here has questioned the competitiveness of the terms of the loan and charged that the repurchase fund clause was a sign of mistrust of the government's financial discipline.

Bermuda**Walter Maddocks Appointed Attorney General***FL1512193890 Bridgetown CANA in English
1811 GMT 15 Dec 90*

[Text] Hamilton, Bermuda, Dec 15, CANA—A former magistrate who made world headlines when he helped raise more than U.S. 200 million dollars for the fight against polio has been appointed Bermuda's new attorney general.

Walter Maddocks, 60, born in Manchester, England and chosen from 30 candidates for the post by governor Sir Desmond Langley, will succeed Saul Froomkin who steps down at the end of January.

Canadian-born Froomkin, who has served as the island's attorney general since 1981, unexpectedly resigned in September, citing work pressures and personality conflicts as his reasons for quitting.

Maddocks served as a magistrate and coroner here from 1966 to 1969 and for the next 13 years worked for a Hamilton law firm. He then took a break from the legal world between 1982 and 1986 to run his thoroughbred breeding operation in Lexington, Kentucky.

In 1986, he was appointed international executive director of Rotary International's polio plus campaign and received a volunteer action award from U.S. President Ronald Reagan for raising 228 million dollars.

"Of his new 96,000 dollar-a-year-post, Maddocks said: "Now that I've been appointed attorney general I have a bit of butterflies because it is a very challenging job."

Dominican Republic**Opposition Spokesman Reports Arrest of 10 Leaders***FL1412144490 Santo Domingo Cadena de Noticias
in Spanish 0944 GMT 14 Dec 90*

[Text] The Collective of Popular Organizations has reported that 10 of its members in Barahona were arrested after holding a popular assembly in which the national crisis was discussed. Secundino Palacio, national leader of the Collective, said that those arrested include Carlos Manuel Diaz, Juan Manuel Grillo Veras, Manuel Terrero, and Johnny Pena.

The opposition leader said that other members of the organization are under siege from members of the G-2, who have express orders to arrest the opposition leaders. Palacio said that Collective leaders Carmen Fonseca Caamano, Juan de la Cruz, Rafael Bonilla, and Fernando Pena are being awaited in Pedernales to be arrested and taken to the Armed Forces Secretariat. The Collective's spokesman said that the 10 neighborhood leaders who were arrested were brought to the capital and taken directly to the Armed Forces Secretariat.

Police Chief Announces Internal Appointments*FL1412135890 Santo Domingo Cadena de Noticias
in Spanish 0930 GMT 14 Dec 90*

[Summary] New chief of police Major General Ramon Alcides Rodriguez Arias has made changes at all levels of the National Police. The following appointments have been announced: Colonel Julio Cesar Campusano, new chief of the police secret service; Colonel Jaime Martes Martinez, chief of the "Black Helmets" of Duarte Department; Colonel Rafael Humberto Moro Bell, head of Special Operations; Colonel Santana Reyes Gonzalez,

director of Robberies; and Colonel Juan Fernandez Lopez, new police superintendent.

Haiti

International Observers Give Victory to Aristide

PA1712145290 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish
1327 GMT 17 Dec 90

[Text] Port-au-Prince, 17 Dec (NOTIMEX)—According to international observers, priest Jean-Bertrand Aristide has reportedly become Haiti's virtual president-elect after winning 80 percent of the votes in the 16 December elections.

Haitians reportedly showed strong support for Aristide and other candidates of the National Front for Change and Democracy (FNCD).

Official election results have not yet been issued, but international observers, who closely followed the vote-counting at key voting tables, told NOTIMEX that Aristide could easily garner 80 percent of the votes.

Most international observers consulted at voting sites said that Aristide will become Haiti's next president and the first one in the last 30 years to be directly elected by a democratic and popular vote.

It is also probable that the FNCD will obtain a majority at the National Assembly.

According to available information, FNCD candidates and independents, who supported an alliance with Aristide, garnered a majority of the votes in the capital and countryside.

A total of 27 senators and 83 deputies will be elected.

It is evident that for many Haitians the results of this election reflect a desire for change.

Several people told NOTIMEX that Aristide and the groups that comprise the FNCD are the only political forces that can ask for and obtain a nationwide sacrifice to advance the country.

This election was affected by some technical problems in the poorest capital city neighborhoods where Aristide enjoys his greatest support.

For example, in Cite Soleil the voting began and ended very late. This is now being cited by defeated candidates to question the validity of the elections.

It is expected that the Provisional Electoral Council (CEP) will issue some official figures this afternoon.

CANA Profiles Frontrunner Father Aristide

FL1712162590 Bridgetown CANA in English
1603 GMT 17 Dec 90

[Report by Peter Richards]

[Text] Port-au-Prince, Haiti, Dec 17, CANA—Besppectacled and clean shaven, Jean-Bertrand Aristide's boyish features and fragile frame belie the guts and determination that catapulted him into the vicious world of Haitian politics. The charismatic Catholic priest, seen as a champion of the poor majority of Haiti's population, emerged the clear leader as early results from Sunday's presidential election started to come in from across the country.

With political observers expecting the trend to continue, 37 year old Aristide looks set to exchange his priestly robes for the presidential palace as he takes his struggle for justice for Haiti's poor on to another level. However, for "Titide," as Aristide is called by his supporters, the road to the nation's highest office has not been easy. His uncompromising stand against injustice landed him in trouble with the church; he was kicked out of the Salesian order in 1988 for disobeying Rome.

In addition, he has also been the target of numerous assassination attempts. Once, while conducting mass, a would-be assassin walked up to Aristide, pointed a gun at his head, but then, with a sudden change of heart, placed the gun, bullets, and the money he had been paid for the job into the basket containing the offerings.

Aristide rose to national prominence as a fierce critic of the former Duvalier regime. Indeed, observers say his attacking sermons helped to mobilise the masses into revolting against president-for-life Jean-Claude Duvalier in 1986, and toppling the 30-year family dictatorship.

While presidential contenders like former World Bank economist Marc Bazin and businessman Louis Dejoie had declared their presidential ambitions long ago, Aristide entered the race just before nominations closed.

Asked in a CANA [CARIBBEAN NEWS AGENCY] interview what he thought he had to offer the Haitian people, Aristide replied: "I think I would have to say my own life."

"I am not saying that I am Abel, but I think when the Haitian people wanted to meet a candidate whom they could trust, they chose me."

Aristide was nominated for the presidency as a compromise candidate after a split developed in the leftwing National Front for Democracy and Change (FNCD).

Born on July 3, 1953 in the rural village of Port Salut, south of here, Aristide was only three months old when his father died. His mother and only sister later emigrated to the United States at the height of the Duvalier dictatorship, leaving behind the young theologian who had just returned from studies in Israel and Italy to fend for himself.

Aristide is a proponent of liberation theology, adhered to by many Latin American priests who see their role amidst grinding poverty as extending beyond saying mass to active involvement in a struggle for social justice. Aristide's position endeared him to the poor, but

caused conflict with Rome which has sought to check the activities of liberation theology priests. The church has not given its blessing to Aristide's decision to run for president.

In his soon-to-be-published book entitled "In The Parish Of The Poor," Aristide said his expulsion from the Salesian order was like a "final slap in the face.... for me."

"The crime for which I stand accused is the crime of preaching food for all people. That is what the Salesians and the Haitian bishops and the Vatican call politics," he wrote.

"I would rather die than be a hypocrite, rather die than betray my people, rather die than leave them behind in the parish of the poor."

Aristide has not spelt out how he intends to improve life for Haiti's poor majority, but he has expressed a determination to bring about a new Haiti where the masses "will walk towards the sunrise of hope," trusting one another, keeping the faith, and never faltering.

"I say together we can make the future better," he told CANA. "People understand that very well. They know if we win, they will live in a country where Ton Ton Macoutes (Duvalier's still active former secret police) will not affect them."

Aristide said the first Macoute he would go after is Roger Lafontant, Duvalier's former interior minister and an unrepentant Macoute leader who called on Duvalierists to go all out to block victory for Aristide. An arrest warrant has been out for Lafontant, whose bid to contest the presidency was stopped by electoral authorities. However, the current authorities have been apparently reluctant to execute the arrest warrant.

Official CEP Election Results Awaited

FL1712171590 Port-au-Prince Radio Nationale in Creole 1510 GMT 17 Dec 90

[Excerpts] Here is how Article 103.2 of the electoral law reads: During the entire time between the close of the election campaign until the Departmental Electoral Bureaus post the results of the elections, newspapers, radio and television stations do not have the right to publish forecasted results of the elections made by companies operating in or out of the country. If they do so, they could face punishment in accordance with how the law reads in Article 139.1. [passage omitted]

We remind you of this because there are many people demonstrating and we are asking them to be careful because as we speak, the Provisional Electoral Council [CEP] has not yet published any result. The people must wait until the CEP publishes the official results. Radio Nationale reminds everybody that the CEP has not provided the results.

There are radio stations abroad, radio stations that broadcast very clearly to Haiti which are saying that

there is a presidential candidate who has already won the battle. Radios and televisions abroad are already putting out the news saying that a candidate has already won. But we, at Radio Nationale, have not yet had any precise information about who has won or lost. Radio Nationale of Haiti has not yet had any results regarding the people who have been elected as president, senators, deputies, mayors, or Communal Section Administration Council members. [passage omitted]

It is the responsibility of the CEP to publish results and it has not yet done so. Meanwhile, radios, televisions, and newspapers in Haiti must not give results on those people who reportedly won the 16 December elections. We will be back later.

Aristide Leads in Vote Count; Bazin Second

FL1712122490 Bonaire Trans World Radio in English 1130 GMT 17 Dec 90

[Excerpts] Haitians have voted in general elections aimed at returning the nation to democracy. The voting was for president, legislators, and municipal authorities.

With not all the returns in, two names have emerged out of the 11 contestants for president. As expected, they are former Catholic priest Jean-Bertrand Aristide leading the count, and former head of the World Bank, Marc Bazin, who is coming in second. [passage omitted]

This will be the first completed free election since the Duvalier dictatorship collapsed nearly five years ago. Former U.S. President Jimmy Carter was one of the observers. He was posted at the same polling station that was the site of those election day shootings in November of 1987. [passage omitted]

Exit Polls Show Aristide Leading in Cities

PA1712020290 Paris AFP in Spanish 0042 GMT 17 Dec 90

[Text] Port-au-Prince 16 Dec (AFP)—Priest Jean Bertrand Aristide, hero of the poor and young people, has obtained the most votes in Port-au-Prince and the main cities in the country, according to statements obtained from voters at the voting centers.

In rural areas, however, which represent about two-thirds of the vote, the winner was uncertain as of 0000 GMT.

Father Aristide is one of the 11 candidates for the Presidency of the Republic.

Large Voter Turnout, Calm Elections Noted

PA1712041690 Paris AFP in Spanish 0224 GMT 17 Dec 90

[Text] Port-au-Prince, 16 Dec (AFP)—The Bureaus for Registration and Voting (BIV's) closed today at 1800 (2300 GMT). The former militias, called "Ton Ton

Macoutes," did not engage in violence. Authorities could not explain the large voter turnout in today's general elections.

Some BIV's that still had long lines of voters at 1800 (2300 GMT) received official authorization to remain open.

Foreign observers, who throughout the day visited the conflict-ridden areas, told AFP that they saw only a few minor irregularities, probably due to the lack of organization, lack of resources by the Provisional Electoral Council (CEP), or blunders by people who today had their first taste of democracy after 29 years of dictatorship and five years of painful transition.

Cheating in some BIV's was inevitable but it will not affect the results, according to the observers who said they are willing to supervise the second round of voting scheduled for 20 January 1991.

At noon, there was much concern in Port-au-Prince when it was reported that some BIV's where polls had given Father Aristide an overwhelming lead, mainly in Cite Soleil—the capital's most important slum district, had been forgotten by the CEP. Today Father Aristide seems to have fully confirmed his title of "hero of the slums."

In the slum areas, all his rivals together would not even get 50 percent of the votes....

At noon, many BIV's in Cite Soleil had not received the necessary material for voting: voting booths, ballot boxes, multi-colored voting tickets, indelible ink for the voters' right thumb....

These delays of four to five hours flared the tempers of many young people, who began a protest march. They ended their march, however, when a truck full of soldiers discreetly appeared on the scene. The soldiers were treated with respect. A while later, when a CEP truck arrived with the awaited material, everything was settled.

The vote count has already started, but the results might be delayed because of the CEP's concern. It seems to prefer to wait for tempers to subside before announcing partial official results. Haitian media have been ordered not to reveal election results.

If only the votes in the capital city were to be counted, Father Aristide's could claim victory. Returns from the rural areas, however,—which represents more than 60 percent of Haiti's population—might be important, and an unconfirmed result might cause errors and tension, according to observers.

The CEP was scheduled to announce the first partial results starting at 1700 on 17 December. Even this announcement, however, might be delayed.

15,000 Aristide Supporters Attend Rally

FL1512164890 Bridgetown CANA in English
1614 GMT 15 Dec 90

[Report by Peter Richards, on assignment]

[Text] Port-au-Prince, Haiti, Dec 15, CANA—At least 15,000 Haitians, mainly young people, danced through main streets here Friday proclaiming radical Roman Catholic priest Jean-Bertrand Aristide president ahead of Sunday's elections.

Chanting "communique, communique, Titid is president" and "Titid is with us," the supporters paraded through the streets under the watchful eyes of armed police.

Aristide, nicknamed "Titid," is one of ten candidates for Haiti's presidential elections that will be monitored by international observer teams, the latest of which to arrive here is led by former U. S. President Jimmy Carter.

Aristide arrived almost three hours after the rally began, and was immediately mobbed by supporters who hoisted him shoulder-high. He spoke for three minutes to the crowd, gathered in a square commemorating the heroes of this former French colony.

The rally was held in daylight as fears of pre-election violence heightened Friday, with the sudden declaration of support by one of the candidates for former government minister and reported leader of a terror group, Dr. Roger Lafontant.

Hubert de Ronceray, a former finance minister in the Jean Claude Duvalier regime, announced his support for Lafontant amid reports that the high court here has delayed judgement on an injunction seeking to declare the polls null and void. The injunction was filed by Lafontant after he was barred by the 1987 Constitution from contesting any election here for the next decade.

Haiti's electoral officials are hoping the Lafontant backers do not stir up trouble during Sunday's poll, to be witnessed by observers from the Caribbean and the U.S. ex-President Carter arrived here at the head of a 34-member delegation to monitor the poll.

A number of Caribbean personalities, including Belize Prime Minister George Price are included in the delegation. In a statement issued soon after the arrival, the delegation said it hoped its presence would "encourage the people of Haiti to vote."

"We are not supporters of any candidate. We support a free process and we ask all of the candidates to join us in declaring before the Haitian people that they will respect the results of a free election, regardless of who wins," it said.

Shortage of Grande Saline Polling Places Cited*FL1512211090 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil
Network in Creole 1200 GMT 15 Dec 90*

[Report by correspondent Marc-Andre Raphael in Saint-Marc—recorded]

[Text] It is highly possible that the elections might not be held in the Grande Saline commune because the Communal Electoral Bureau [BEC] has no means of transporting the election materials to its localities, despite the steps taken by BEC members in the Departmental Electoral Bureau. This is what BEC vice president Desir told Ancelot Doriellan, our reporter in the commune.

Ancelot also informed us that there are no premises for the voting bureaus because people do not want to offer their houses without being paid. The BEC president does not appear to be willing to give any money to rent voting places. We remind you that Grande Saline is located 30 km away from the National Road.

These people were recently stricken by a big flood. They lost animals, gardens, and so on. Although there may be no solution for Grande Saline, in Saint-Marc everything regarding the elections is going very well.

Armed Forces Issue Election Eve Appeal*FL1512205590 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil
Network in Creole 1200 GMT 15 Dec 90*

[Text] The High Command of the Haitian Armed Forces [FADH] thinks it is necessary to remind the public that calm and security are indispensable for the the 16 December elections. Thus, it invites the people to cooperate and to fully understand all the steps taken by the FADH to foster a secure climate for the elections.

The FADH reaffirms its commitment to guarantee the maximum security during the elections. It asks the people not to compromise the success of the elections by letting themselves be dragged into street demonstrations, into acts of intimidation, or into calls for violence and insurrection.

The FADH High Command reiterates its determination not to tolerate the formation of any brigades or so-called "vigilance brigades," or any other form of illegal organizations.

Thus, the FADH alone has responsibility for ensuring security during the elections, according to the note issued by the FADH High Command.

Army Issues Voter Safety Guidelines*FL1512010090 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole
in French 1700 GMT 14 Dec 90*

[Text] The Haitian Army will be everywhere Sunday. Uniformed military men in significant numbers will be posted in strategic locations as a preventative measure. Civilian policemen will patrol the streets of the capital and the provinces so as to better control the situation.

Colonel Jodel Lessage, officer in charge of public relations for the anti-gang service, told NOUVELISTE that he will do his best so that everything runs smoothly. Colonel Raoul Cedras, chairman of the coordination committee for the Security of Electoral Activities, explained that the Army is working in close collaboration with the Provisional Electoral Council [CEP] in Port-au-Prince; and that department chiefs are working with the Voting and Registration Bureau presidents.

Colonel Cedras also commented on the 5 December attack in Petionville. It was a barbarous act condemned by the Army, he stated. He was not able to guarantee, however, that such acts would not occur again.

The coordination committee for the Security of Electoral Activities issued some advice to the voters for Sunday:

- 1) Do not wait until the last minute to vote
- 2) Do not go to the voting place accompanied by a child
- 3) Do not carry a handbag or wear a backpack
- 4) Do not carry weapons—guns, knives, bottles, sticks, etc
- 5) Do wear clothes that clearly show one does not carry weapons
- 6) Do stand in line, following the orderly guidelines established by

Departmental Electoral Bureau [BIV] members

- 7) Avoid discussions with anyone standing in line
- 8) Avoid lingering at the BIV after voting
- 9) Avoid using private cars and phones unless absolutely necessary
- 10) Respect all other instructions given by the CEP and the police during

the day.

Precautionary Measure Taken Before Elections**Army Closes Dominican Border***FL1512210090 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole
in French 1700 GMT 15 Dec 90*

[Text] The Army has adopted several measures to avoid any disruption of the elections tomorrow. The Haitian-Dominican border will be closed starting from today [15 December] until Tuesday 18 December.

Restrictions on Alcohol Sales, Firearms*FL1512211590 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil
Network in Creole 1200 GMT 15 Dec 90*

[Excerpts] The Interior and National Defense Ministry notifies the public and particularly the owners of nightclubs, bars, cockfight arenas and similar institutions that the sale of alcohol is forbidden from today Saturday, 15 December, at 6:00 P.M. until Tuesday, 18 December, at 6:00 A.M. [passage omitted]

Moreover, all gun permits are herewith revoked. [passage omitted] The members of Haitian Armed Forces will arrest and jail all people carrying firearms, or any

other weapons, including sticks and knives. All those caught with such weapons will be arrested and jailed. These measures will not apply to government officials, electoral authorities, security agents, presidential candidates who carry proper permits, and legally licensed private security agencies.

Police Issue Traffic Regulations

*FL1512215090 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil
Network in Creole 1200 GMT 15 Dec 90*

[Excerpts] The Traffic Control Service has taken several measures in collaboration with the Coordinating Committee for Security in the Electoral Activities. These measures are as follows:

Except for the Haitian Armed Forces, police, hospital, and Red Cross cars, vehicles in general are forbidden throughout the entire metropolitan area.

Vehicles are forbidden from 2200 tonight until 1600 tomorrow.

On election day, Sunday 16 December, taxis are not allowed on the streets from 0400 until the next day at 0400. Nick's and Haiti Car Service are allowed to work. But they must pay particular attention to identify their passengers.

On election day rental car traffic is also forbidden except rental cars authorized by the Coordinating Committee for Security in the Electoral Activities. All rental car owners must check [as heard], they must open a special record and pay particular attention to all people who apply to rent cars.

Public transport vehicles, buses that serve the center of the city [Port-au-Prince], Cite, Delmas, Petionville, the airport, downtown, Carrefour-Feuilles, Croix-des-Bouquets, Bon Repos and Carrefour can work so as to permit the people who have electoral cards for stations far from their houses to go to vote.

The Traffic Service advises that everybody must arrange their affairs so as to respect these measures or else they will be prosecuted. Furthermore, the Traffic Control Service asks the people who have private cars not to use them except in an extreme emergency.

Security authorities will not allow parking near the Bureaus for Registration and Vote [BIV]. All people who drive and who would like to perform their civic duty should park 50 meters away from the BIV's.

The speed limit is reduced to 30 km per hour on all streets. Thus, people who do not respect this speed limit will be severely punished by the Traffic Service.

The Traffic Service reserves the right to stop and to search all suspicious cars and to tow all cars left on the streets. Depending on BIV locations, traffic will be one-way in some streets and will be completely closed on other streets. [passage omitted]

The Traffic Service reminds drivers that the sale of gas in containers, like buckets or cans, is forbidden during this election period. People who do not respect these measures will be prosecuted. Vehicles with tinted windows are prohibited. [passage omitted]

International Flights Suspended

*PA1512233090 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2101 GMT
15 Dec 90*

[Excerpt] Port-au-Prince, 15 Dec (EFE)—[passage omitted] All airlines have suspended their Sunday [16 December] flights to and from Port-au-Prince. This was confirmed to EFE by representatives of the airlines that link Haiti with the United States, Panama, the Dominican Republic, and other countries.

The representatives of the companies contacted by EFE were unable to confirm whether the flights will be resumed on 17 December.

The elections are being held in an atmosphere of great tension and political polarization of the voters between the two main presidential candidates, radical priest Jean Bertrand Aristide and conservative politician Marc Bazin.

The Army is patrolling the streets of the capital and the main cities of the country. The Armed Forces have implemented special security measures to prepare for possible incidents. [passage omitted]

Voting Sites Open Following Lifting of Curfew

*PA1612132190 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1111 GMT
16 Dec 90*

[Text] Port-au-Prince, 16 Dec (EFE)—Voting sites opened in Haiti today at 0600 (1100 GMT), two hours after the lifting of a curfew in the capital decreed by the Army last night.

Amid a climate of general tension and with the country's border closed and international flights suspended, more than 3 million Haitians have been urged to elect a new president, 27 senators, 83 deputies, and local administrators.

Eleven candidates are competing for the Presidency, but the campaign has revealed that voters are polarized between 37-year-old radical priest Jean-Bertrand Aristide and 53-year-old Conservative politician Marc Bazin.

Aristide, a priest who supports the Liberation Theology, is favored in the polls, but some observers believe that he will not be able to garner an absolute majority and will have to face Bazin in a 20 January run-off election.

Haiti's border with the Dominican Republic was closed for security reasons, and all airlines suspended their flights to and from Port-Au-Prince.

Only vehicles displaying special passes granted to authorities, journalists, and 400 international observers, who are in the country to oversee the elections, will be allowed.

The Army has deployed its 8,000 soldiers to prevent attacks or shooting by followers of the dictatorship that ruled Haiti until 1986, and who marred the 1987 and 1988 elections.

The 12,000 voting sites throughout the country will close at 1800 (2300 GMT) and the first official results will not be issued until tomorrow.

Confusion, Delays Reported After Polls Open

*PA1612154290 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1446 GMT
16 Dec 90*

[Excerpt] Port-au-Prince, 16 Dec (EFE)—Confusion reigns at most of the Haitian capital's voting sites, where voting has not yet begun two hours after their official opening because of a delay in the arrival of ballots and ballot boxes and a host of organizational problems.

Although there has been no violence yet, many voters standing in line in front of the voting sites are starting to voice their displeasure and concern over the numerous obstacles in exercising their right to vote.

At a voting site in Turgeau-Trois Bebes, in the capital's downtown, its president had to take the ballot boxes outdoors, accompanied by military personnel, because the voters expressed concern that the boxes had arrived at the voting site already stuffed with ballots.

Local radio stations have confirmed similar delays in the countryside, and have pointed out that in certain areas voting will not take place at all because voting tables have not yet been manned or set up.

In principle, the voting sites opened at 0600 (1100 GMT), two hours after the lifting of a curfew in the capital that was decreed by the Army last night. As of 0800, however, voting had begun in only one of the 15 voting sites visited by EFE correspondents in various areas of the capital. [passage omitted]

Voting Extended to 17 Dec

*PA1712014990 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 0039 GMT
17 Dec 90*

[Text] Port-au-Prince, 16 Dec (DPA)—The Provisional Electoral Council (CEP) tonight extended the period of voting in the general elections. The CEP announced that some voting centers will open again tomorrow, 17 December.

The CEP adopted this measure in view of the serious problems faced by some sectors in the capital who did not receive electoral material in time and could not open on schedule.

The CEP announced that it will guarantee the vote to all the people who have the right. It warned, however, that because the Army can not guarantee security during the night, the voting will be renewed tomorrow.

Port-au-Prince Voters Protest Glitches at Polls

*PA1612165290 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1546 GMT
16 Dec 90*

[Text] Port au Prince, 16 Dec (EFE)—Thousands of people started demonstrating in one of the neighborhoods in the Haitian capital today to protest the chaos in many voting places, which has prevented tens of thousands of people from voting.

The demonstrators are protesting the lack of ballot boxes, ballots, and ink in most of the voting centers in "Cite Soleil," a neighborhood with a population of more than 200,000 people, and where radical Priest Jean Bertrand Aristide, one of the presidential candidates, has many supporters.

EFE correspondents, whose car was violently attacked by the demonstrators, were able to confirm that there were ballot boxes and ballots in only one of the voting places in the densely populated neighborhood.

Local radio stations have reported similar situations on the outskirts, where general unrest is growing.

In a statement for EFE, St. Lucia Prime Minister John Compton, who was in "Cite Soleil" as an observer, said that the "situation is very grave." He expressed his dismay over the problems preventing the normal development of elections.

Speaking on local radio stations, a Provisional Electoral Center (CEP) spokesman has urged the population to remain calm and has promised that the ballots will arrive at the voting centers sometime during the day.

Several Bureaus Without Ballots

*FL1612165090 Port-au-Prince Radio Nationale
in Creole 1145 GMT 16 Dec 90*

[Text] According to several reporters who are out on the capital's streets, many voters came early this morning to fulfill their patriotic duty. In several Bureaus for Registration and Vote [BIV's], however, the voting materials were not available yet. People were waiting in line. At several BIV's, some people were getting impatient.

In places where voting had begun, there were people who could not find their names registered. It seems that several BIV's were moved to a different location which resulted in people not being able to find their names. Another problem was the absence of political party representatives and foreign observers at numerous BIV's where those observers should be present in order for the voting operations to begin. Nevertheless, several BIV's presidents decided to open the BIV's to allow the voters

to cast their ballots. There are no major incidents to point out. The police are on the streets to ensure security.

Some Municipal, Casec Elections Postponed

*FL1612165590 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole
in Creole 1230 GMT 16 Dec 90*

[Excerpt] Several measures and decisions were taken last night by the Provisional Electoral Council [CEP] regarding municipal and Communal Section Administration Council [Casec] elections. These elections will not take place in some regions of the country today because of the difficulties the CEP has encountered in delivering ballots and other necessary election material to these Bureaus for Registration And Vote [BIV's]. Communique three is as follows:

The 16 December elections will cover 803 positions, that is to say 560 Casecs, 133 city hall coalitions, 82 deputies, 27 senators, and 1 president of the Republic. There are 6,635 candidates running for the different positions. The CEP was able to distribute election documents to each of the 14,000 BIV's. Because of certain technical difficulties, however, regarding ballots that must serve for the election of the Casec's and municipalities in certain communes and communal sections, which will be announced in a little while, and in consideration of suggestions made by some candidates interested in these elections who want to overcome these inconvenient difficulties, and in view of the provisions of Article 10 of the electoral law authorizing the CEP to interrupt the voting process for any cause without affecting the electoral process, the CEP has decided to interrupt the Casec and municipality elections in the following communes and communal sections:

Municipalities—Southern Department: Cavaillon, Chardonnières.

Northern Department: Milot, Plaisance.

Western Department: Petionville, Crois-des-Bouquets.

Artibonite Department: La Chapelle, Saint-Marc, Ennery and Anse-Rouge.

Northwestern: Bassin-Bleu.

Grand'Anse [Southwestern] Department: Anse-d'Hainault.

The elections are also suspended at Casec level for the following regions:

Northern Department: Raphael—Mathurin communal section.

Southern Department: Torbeck—Berreau and Moreau communal sections.

Artibonite Department: Ennery—3d Chemin-Neuf communal section.

Western Department: Leogane—Palmistes, Citronnier, and Fondole communal sections. Cornillon—2d Plaine Celeste.

As voting for these elected positions does not require absolute majority as in the case of the president, senators, or deputies, it has been postponed to the second ballot scheduled for January [1991].

The CEP is anxious to point out that elections for all the other positions in these communes and communal sections will be held today at the same time as the general elections throughout the Republic.

Voters Protest Absence of Ballots in Cite Soleil

*FL1612185090 Port-au-Prince Radio Nationale
in Creole 1510 GMT 16 Dec 90*

[Report by Lesly Bonny in Cite Soleil—live]

[Excerpts] [Crowd shouting] [words indistinct] There is a demonstration going on now in Cite Soleil. [passage omitted] The people have been demonstrating for five or six minutes. The crowd has moved down the Drouillard Road, and is meeting up with other crowds coming from inside Cite Soleil and another crowd coming from National Road One. There are more people now. The people have their ballots in their hands. They are moving along the Drouillard Road, demonstrating their discontent because of the way things are unfolding.

These people stood in numbers before a Bureau for Registration and Vote [BIV] where they were waiting for election materials to be delivered so that they could vote. Some of the people say that they have been waiting since 0500. Others say they came at 0600. Others came later so that they could vote. So far, they cannot vote because there are no election materials including ink and ballots. Some of them found senatorial and parliamentary ballots but they said they will not vote until they also have the presidential candidate ballots so that they can vote for all the candidates at the same time. [passage omitted]

It is already 1015. Nobody can vote in this BIV located at College Immacule in Cite Soleil. Thus, this is the reason why people occupy the streets, demonstrating with tree branches in their hands, and chanting, jumping, and crying. [passage omitted]

Police Riot Squads Summoned

*FL1612190590 Bridgetown CANA in English
1818 GMT 16 Dec 90*

[Report by Peter Richards]

[Text] Port-au-Prince, Haiti, Dec 16, CANA—Police riot squads were rushed to Cite Soleil, a Port-au-Prince slum district, as thousands of residents poured into the streets alleging irregularities in presidential elections here on Sunday. Protestors complained that ballot papers had been tampered with in an attempt to block a victory for leading presidential candidate, Catholic priest Jean-Bertrand Aristide. They said plastic had been put over the symbol of the populist priest, and it was preventing votes from being registered on the ballot

paper. Cite Soleil residents also complained that electricity to the area had been cut off, despite assurances from the utility company.

Armed police blocked the main road leading into the densely populated area. There were no initial reports of injuries or arrests.

Aristide, who draws strong support from the desperately poor majority of Haiti's population, is the frontrunner in the poll.

Polling began at 0600 (1000 GMT), but the process was held up at several of the 14,000 polling stations across the country because of the absence of ballot paper and other necessities for holding the election. Nevertheless, Haitian voters braved these setbacks by turning out in large numbers in support of the election which will set Haiti on a democratic course after three decades under the Duvalier family dictatorship.

Attack on Presidential Candidate Reported

*PA1612192990 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 1822 GMT
16 Dec 90*

[Text] Port au Prince, 16 Dec (DPA)—There have been several reports on irregularities and various isolated incidents of violence in Haiti since the election process began this morning.

In what seems to be the most serious incident so far, Sylvio Claude, one of the presidential candidates, was physically attacked and his car damaged, as he was protesting alleged attempts by supporters of candidate Jean Bertrand Aristide to force his followers to vote for Aristide.

It was also reported that hundreds of ballots were found in a street near the headquarters of the Provisional Electoral Council (CEP). According to other reports, in at least one of the poorest neighborhoods in the capital people are marching with sticks in their hands and shouting that they do not know who to vote for.

Louis Dejoie, another candidate, demanded the suspension of the process, claiming Aristide's followers are keeping people from voting and that the situation is getting dangerous.

A fire broke out this morning in one of the sectors of the capital, but was quickly extinguished by firemen. Most citizens remain inside their home listening to the local radio stations, which have been giving frequent reports on irregularities and incidents occurring throughout the country.

Press Agency Reports Calm Election Atmosphere

*FL1612194590 Port-au-Prince Radio Nationale
in Creole 1650 GMT 16 Dec 90*

[Text] According to a dispatch from AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE [AFP], the people's participation in the elections is very important. Around 1000, AFP

telephoned locations in Port-au-Prince and the provincial cities and according to information they received, elections are unfolding calmly.

Most of the voters who agreed to tell AFP who they had voted for declared that they voted for Father Jean-Bertrand Aristide. The Provisional Electoral Council has not yet given any results on the elections, according to this note.

Many Bureaus for Registration and Vote [BIV's] began their operations late because election materials such as ink, ballots, and the registered voters lists were not yet available.

Many of these voters who were waiting in front of the BIV's said that they would wait for the materials so they could vote, no matter what the time might be. A young student declared to AFP: We decided to vote, we want to put an end to this five-year transition.

The Army and the police, who are well-armed and wearing helmets and khaki or blue uniforms, have taken great measures to ensure security during these elections. They are patrolling the streets in the capital and they are controlling what few cars are in the streets. So far, no further incident has been recorded since yesterday when police discovered a shell on the Carrefour Road in the southern area of Port-au-Prince. This shell did not contain any gunpowder that would cause it to explode.

Official Comments on Ballots Found in Street

*FL1612204090 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole
in French 1530 GMT 16 Dec 90*

[Text] There appears to be a small scandal. Some ballots were found lying on the street a while ago. Passersby were taking them and were offering them to who ever wanted them. Following an urgent call by prospective voters and observers, a Provisional Electoral Council [CEP] member came to verify the situation. Jean Francisque Mericier, a CEP member, was full of bitterness and with a sob in his voice stated into William Jean-Louis's microphone that what he was seeing was very sad. He gave a guarantee to the voters and the population that these ballots would not be used at all because the ballots were not in any voting bureau. The ballots could serve no purpose.

This is a sad observation from Jean-Francisque Mericier, who is sorry that transportation was not provided on time by the government. William Jean-Louis questioned him in the West Departmental Electoral Bureau [BED] a few minutes ago.

[Begin recording] [Jean-Louis] As a member of the CEP, are you aware of what has happened in the Bureaus for Registration and Vote [BIV's], especially in front of the West BED on Pave Street?

[Mericier] I just came here and I noted with deep sorrow and regret that the CEP is confronted with such situations. The CEP deplores the situation, however, the CEP

asks the voters to keep their trust because the ballots on the street will not be used because if a person's name does not appear in the BIV's, those who pick up a 100, 200, or 300 ballots cannot vote for someone.

[Jean-Louis] How do you explain people carrying the ballots under their arms on the streets?

[Mericier] This is a logistics problem that the CEP has had for a long time. The CEP had asked the government to put at its disposal some cars, which was not done. [end recording]

CEP Announces Elections Might Be Extended

PA1612214790 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1946 GMT
16 Dec 90

[Text] Port-au-Prince, 16 Dec (EFE)—A spokesman for the Provisional Electoral Council (CEP) announced today that the Haitian elections, which began this morning, might be extended until 17 December to allow all registered voters to cast their ballot.

Spokesman Felipe Jules said that the CEP "will guarantee that all those who have their voting card can vote, even if we have to extend the elections until tomorrow."

The CEP, which is responsible for the elections, is meeting in an urgent session to study the situation brought on by the inability to open many Bureaus for Registration and Voting (BIV) in the capital city, due to a lack of ballots or ballot boxes.

At 1400 (1900 GMT), four hours before the polls close, tens of thousands of voters had not been able to vote in many BIV's in the capital city and in many other cities where no ballots or ballot boxes have been received.

The situation is particularly chaotic in the outskirts of Port-au-Prince, where the delay has resulted in protests by followers of radical priest Jean Bertrand Aristide, one of the presidential candidates. Aristide has many followers in the outskirts of the city.

The BIV's opened in a more normal fashion in downtown Port-au-Prince and in Petion-Ville, near the capital, where conservative politician Marc Bazin has the most supporters.

CEP Secretary General Jean Casimir admitted that there is a "crisis" provoked, according to him, by the difficulties in transporting ballots and ballot boxes. He said, however, that "everything will be done to allow the people to vote."

The 1987 elections were disrupted by acts of violence perpetrated by followers of the dictatorship that existed in Haiti until 1987. They machine-gunned many voters.

Local radio stations have confirmed the existence of problems in other parts of the country. Until now, however, no one has mentioned the possibility of annulling the elections.

Radio Nationale Cites AFP on Election Progress

FL1612213590 Port-au-Prince Radio Nationale
in Creole 1810 GMT 16 Dec 90

[Text] We just received a dispatch from AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE [AFP]. This dispatch advises that there are a number of organizational problems which have hampered the progress of today's elections in Port-au-Prince. AFP says that these problems do not appear to compromise the progress of the elections which the secretary general of the Provisional Electoral Council [CEP], Jean Casimir, finds satisfactory overall. Thus, according to Secretary General Jean Casimir, the progress of the elections is satisfactory on the whole.

The dispatch goes on to say that there were not ballots or other materials necessary for the election operations in several Bureaus for Registration and Vote [BIV's], particularly in the populated area of Cite Soleil where hundreds of young people were demonstrating in the street. They were showing how upset they were. The police had to intervene. Mr. Casimir asked the people to keep calm and not to cause disorders.

Evans Paul, who is running in a Port-au-Prince municipal race and is one of presidential candidate Father Jean-Bertrand Aristide's campaign officials, noted that a number of presidential ballots were coated in advance with plastic so as to prevent the electors from placing a mark by Father Jean-Bertrand Aristide's name. Thus, the spokesman of the National Front for Change and Democracy [Aristide's party] reported that there was plastic on Father Jean-Bertrand Aristide's picture.

CEP, Party Officials Hold News Conference

FL1612215590 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole
in French 1700 GMT 16 Dec 90

[Excerpt] A news conference was held by Provisional Electoral Council [CEP] member, Mr. Casimir, at the TELECO Press Center to explain why several voting bureaus remained closed at 1100, without any explanation from the CEP. This conference brought together Jean Casimir from the CEP, Evans Paul from the National Front for Democracy and Change [FNCD], Francois Benoit from the National Alliance for Democracy and Change, Silvio Claude from the Haitian Christian Democratic Party, and Raymond Pioux from the National Agricultural and Industrial Party.

During the conference, Jean Casimir tried to reassure voters who are faced with what he called "the crisis," which refers to the well-known situation of the distribution of the voting materials to the different Bureaus for Registration and Vote in the capital. Casimir asked the population to remain calm. He stated that everyone would have the opportunity to vote.

Evans Paul [alias K-Plim], Francois Benoit, Pastor Silvio Claude, and Mr. Pioux spoke. K-Plim noted some fraudulent dealings in the voting process. According to him, plastic was put on top of the circle for for the candidate

Jean-Bertrand Aristide. Silvio Claude mentioned that he was assaulted by some FNCD partisans. K-Plim denied the accusations. [passage omitted]

CEP Official Comments on Election Progress

FL1612234590 Port-au-Prince Radio Nationale
in Creole 2145 GMT 16 Dec 90

[Statement by Philippe Jules, member of Provisional Electoral Council (CEP), at the press center in Port-au-Prince; date not given—recorded]

[Excerpt] [Announcer] Let us listen now to one of the members of the CEP Council who is answering some questions addressed to him.

[Philippe Jules] [Words indistinct] They can wait. They can go home for a while if they wish. They can wait if they wish. The CEP gives them a guarantee. The problem is only a matter of ballots. We are going to print ballots and within three hours they will have the ballots available. Thus, the whole 12 hours the law provides for will be fulfilled if we begin to vote tonight at 2000. we may be obliged to stop it [the voting process], however, if we do not have a security guarantee from the Army for tonight because they are busy. They have been on the go since the day before yesterday. They may not be able to stay beyond 2000. So, in case they cannot stay, the voting process will be closed and it will be resumed tomorrow morning.

We are asking the Bureaus for Registration and Vote [BIV's] members as well as the other presidents and the other people who represent the candidates to be patient and to sleep with us. We will have enough security at the BIV's but we cannot guarantee security on the streets.

Thus, we tell everybody, we say to the people they must prove themselves and wait for us so they can vote. We understand that we are responsible. The CEP is responsible for what happened. This is the first time, however, we have held elections in which there was voting for a president, senators, deputies, communes and Communal Section Administration Councils [Casec's]. So, when we have to print 15,000 lots of 250 [ballots] for presidents, 15,000 lots of 250 [ballots] for senators, 15,000 lots of 250 [ballots] for deputies, 15,000 lots of 250 [ballots] for Casec's and so forth for the municipalities, it is possible that we may not be able to manage the whole process at the same time.

We, however, want to give the people the guarantee that they will have the opportunity to vote and that their votes will be valid. [passage omitted]

Ministers Satisfied With Elections, Praise Army

FL1712014090 Port-au-Prince Radio Nationale
in Creole 2200 GMT 16 Dec 90

[Report on a news conference with members of the Haitian Cabinet on 16 December; place not given—recorded from a television report]

[Text] [Minister of Justice Pierre Labissiere] We are making ourselves available so that we can solve any problem that might occur so that 16 December will represent an historical day for the Haitian people.

[Minister of Interior Joseph Maxi] I just want to add a point to Minister Labissiere's statement: The government is satisfied with one important point—since this government took power, we continually told the Haitian people and all the Armed Forces that the government wanted to allow the Provisional Electoral Council [CEP] to independently organize the elections in peace, honesty, and democracy. Today we are witnessing such an event. We cannot say that we are totally satisfied, because it is only 1400 [1900 GMT] and voting operations are continuing. We are watching all the operations and we are coordinating with the Haitian Army so that everything keeps going smoothly.

I must add one more thing. Although Minister Labissiere sent compliments to the Haitian people and the Armed Forces, I compliment the Haitian people for its discipline during the voting operations and to the Haitian Army, for adopting an attitude of helping to respect the country from now on. The government is satisfied.

[Minister of Information Alfred Montor] This morning I went to several places to see how the elections were proceeding. I am more than satisfied upon seeing that the Haitian people have given proof of an extraordinary sense of public responsibility. The people really showed what they wanted. The Army was also equal to the task. These are the reasons why the government is satisfied. Of course you all know that the election is a human venture; there are some faults; but all those small difficulties were solved. Of course some information was given about some inconveniences and unfortunately this information was late and the CEP had already solved the problems. We are very satisfied and happy; the government is there together and is following the situation, hoping that every thing will continue smoothly until the end of the day.

Radio Reports 'Calm' in Grand'Anse Voting

FL1712014590 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole
in Creole 2345 GMT 16 Dec 90

[Report from Jeremie, capital of Grand'Anse Department in southwestern Haiti, by correspondents Herto Zamor and Wilson Lamy]

[Excerpts] This morning numerous voters went to the Bureaus for Registration and Vote [BIV's] here in Jeremie. later, there was a gradual drop off. The presence of the military decreased in the city, the voters were hesitant, and the observers were not obvious. That did not stop the people, however, from remaining very calm.

In the afternoon, the elections took another turn. Besides irregularities we noted in several BIV's, there are Communal Section Administration Council [CASEC] members [candidates] for Moron, Chambellan and Anse-d'Hainault who saw that their names did not appear on the ballots. So did municipality candidates for Dame-Marie and Chambellan.

In addition to these problems, partisans of Saurel Jacinthe and Fritz Toussaint, two parliamentary candidates in Moron, were fighting today. It was not the candidates themselves, but their supporters. Fortunately, the police intervened in time and there were more emotions than real troubles.

We should also point out that many people think that several BIV members are working for a candidate. This is what the people say. According to the accusers, these employees are wheeling and dealing in an attempt to cause a coup d'etat such as on 29 November 1987.

Aside from the incidents we just pointed out, the situation in Grand'Anse is very calm, so far. This is Herto Zamor and Wilson Lamy reporting for Radio Metropole.

Bureaus Reported Unable To Control Voters

*FL1612172090 Port-au-Prince Radio Nationale
in Creole 1330 GMT 16 Dec 90*

[Text] We are now in Bel-Air [section of Port-au-Prince] where we can say there is a real mess. There are no police. The people in charge of the Bureaus for Registration and Vote [BIV's] cannot control the voters. Also, despite the presence of many voters, the BIV's members have not yet received the list of registered voters. In some cases, the BIV's members have decided to take down people's names and to allow them to vote, and will verify the names afterwards. We are asking the authorities in charge of order to come quickly to Bel-Air where people are attempting to enter without any discipline. The BIV's members are having great difficulty keeping people in line so that they can vote in order and in a disciplined manner.

[Announcer] Following this call, another reporter reported, a few minutes later, that the police are at Bel-Air where order has been established.

Bomb Squad Defuses Device in ANDP Office

*FL1612182090 Bridgetown CANA in English
1517 GMT 16 Dec 90*

[Report by Peter Richards]

[Text] Port-au-Prince, Haiti, Dec 16, CANA—Haitians began voting in elections on Sunday amid fears of possible violence, but in high spirits about a future under an emerging democracy.

Nearly four million voters were registered to cast ballots to elect a president who will take over from interim head

of state Ertha Pascal Trouillot in early February, as well as members of the National Legislature and local government councillors.

In some areas, however, electoral officials reported they had to postpone the local government elections because of a lack of ballot paper and other necessities.

When polling stations opened their doors at 0600 (1100 GMT), eyewitnesses said long queues of anxious voters had already formed outside at several locations. At one polling station visited by this correspondent, some voters complained they had been there for almost one hour and unable to enter the polling booth.

Units of the Army and police maintained a heavy presence on the streets of Port-au-Prince, barring vehicles from passing in front of polling stations in an attempt to prevent a recurrence of the bloodshed that scuttled November 1987 elections. Some 14,000 polling stations were expected to be open nationwide until 1800, the official end of polling.

Eleven candidates were on the ballot for president, with radical and charismatic Roman Catholic priest Father Jean-Bertrand Aristide widely favored to win. The other leading contender is former World Bank official, economist Marc Bazin.

The poll, being held against the background of violence and threats from former supporters of the ousted Duvalier dictatorship, seeks to establish democratic rule in Haiti. Roger Lafontant, an unrepentant Duvalierist and reputed leader of the dreaded Ton Ton Macoutes, secret police which propped up the 29 year Duvalier dictatorship, said every effort will be made to prevent a victory for Aristide, seen as a champion of the poor.

"We must stop the demon priest from winning, legally," Lafontant told reporters on Saturday. Meanwhile, bomb experts were called to defuse a bomb found at the office of Bazin's National Alliance for Democracy and Progress [ANDP].

The Council of State, which shared power with interim President Ertha Pascal Trouillot who took office earlier this year after the ouster of military president Prosper Avril, expressed concern at the possibility of the election being marred by fraud.

At the polling station this correspondent visited, some voters complained of not being able to vote because their names were not on the register.

CEP Bans Campaigning, Unofficial Count Reports

*FL1512204690 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole
in French 1700 GMT 15 Dec 90*

[Text] The Provisional Electoral Council [CEP] reminds the public that voting will take place between 0600 [1100 GMT] and 1800 [2300 GMT]. It is advisable not to wait until the end of this period to vote. Your cooperation will allow each

Registration and Voting Bureau [BIV] to finish on time and start without delay the counting of votes.

The CEP reminds the public, parties and political groups, cartels and candidates that meetings or electoral gatherings are prohibited nationwide, starting from Saturday morning, zero hour. This ban also prohibits election campaigning by means of radio, newspaper or television, putting up new posters, or any other means. Voters are also forbidden from appearing at voting places with the parties and candidates' T-shirts, flags, symbols, and emblems.

The CEP also reminds the press not to publish information about voting trends starting from the closing of the electoral campaign until the Departmental Electoral Bureaus publish reports on vote counts. This ban also prohibits research, survey, and electoral polling operations, which have no right to publish the results of their work, starting from the closing of the electoral campaign, meaning from this morning [15 Dec], zero hour.

The CEP reminds that all forms of campaign material are banned inside the BIV's and the electoral law forbids all forms of political campaigning outside the BIV's during voting hours, tomorrow 16 December.

Aristide Election Campaign Ends With Rally

FL1512202590 Port-au-Prince Radio Haiti-Inter in Creole 2200 GMT 14 Dec 90

[Jean-Laurant Nelson's report on rally marking the conclusion of Aristide's election campaign—live]

[Excerpts] Despite the wind of panic and the rumors of violence present in the capital throughout the day, people came in great numbers to the Kiosk Oxide Jeanty [a Champ de Mars area near the National Palace] in Port-au-Prince. It is not easy to evaluate precisely the number of people present. It is hard to evaluate the number of people in Champs de Mars. There are all types of people with different skin and eye color. All classes were there waiting for Jean-Bertrand Aristide, the National Front for Democracy and Change [FNCD] candidate who closed his election campaign today. Early this afternoon several FNCD candidates arrived. [passage omitted] Evans Paul [alias K. Plim] was talking to the people. He was asking them for who they would vote.

Jean-Bertrand Aristide finally showed up at around 2145. Under the protection of a heavy military presence, and with much jostling and pushing, Jean-Bertrand Aristide finally reached the kiosk where the crowds were waiting for him. They held posters which read: "Haiti is not the Dominican Republic;" "16 December we will go vote;" "On 7 February we will start celebrating the people's power or the people's government." Many other things were written on the posters and all kinds of people were wearing t-shirts and carrying flags that bore the first-class rooster logo.

Jean-Bertrand Aristide came into the crowd for only about two minutes. Because he was being pushed by the people and because of the crowd around him, he had to stand on people's backs in order to speak. In his statement, Jean-Bertrand Aristide said that the Haitian people should not offer him flowers today because he is the one bringing flowers to people at the kiosk, on behalf of all Haitian people in all corners of Haiti. What he is bringing is flowers, because the Haitian people struggle with no money and persevere with dignity. [cheers]

Jean-Bertrand Aristide could only exchange those few words with the crowd and then he had to find a way to escape. A group of people ran after the procession escorting Father Aristide. It is to be noted that police in assuring security, searched every passerby who carried a bag or press card. Men, as well as women, were searched by the military performing their duties in the Champs-de-Mars area during the closing of Aristide's and his candidates' election campaign.

Monsignor Clarifies Church's Stance on Elections

FL1412204390 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1200 GMT 14 Dec 90

[Report by correspondent Jean-Elder Almeus, in Jeremie, capital of the Grand'Anse department in southwestern Haiti; date not given—recorded]

[Text] The atmosphere is very calm in Jeremie and its surroundings on the eve of the elections. Everyone is preoccupied with election matters, getting ready for 16 December.

Monseigneur Willy Romelus provided an explanation of the statement issued by the bishops of the Haitian Episcopal Conference [CEH] entitled, "The [Catholic] Church Has No Candidate." Following are the key points of the monseigneur's interpretation:

When the Church said it does not endorse any candidate, the people misunderstood. The Church is in favor of elections; however, as an institution, the Church cannot recommend one candidate over another. As an institution, it must remain neutral.

Monseigneur Romelus explained that as a private citizen he has his own political preferences; but as a monseigneur, he cannot tell the believers, ex cathedra, to vote for a specific candidate. It is in this context, he said, that the bishops declared that the Church supports no candidates. The only thing the Church can do is to guide the people in the way of truth, teaching them the criteria to judge which candidate they should vote for.

The monseigneur said that he does have his electoral card. He urged all committed laymen—fathers, mothers, brothers, and sisters—to go to vote, in harmony and discipline, and to make a choice based on individual conscience. If the elections are held without crooked dealings, he hopes that afterwards, all Haitians will

support one another, will hold one another's hands, and will come together so that the country can move forward.

Disqualified Presidential Candidate Arrested

FL1512183090 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1700 GMT 14 Dec 90

[Interview with Mrs. Colette Jacques, who was disqualified as a presidential candidate by the Provisional Electoral Council, was arrested on 13 December, and is being held in prison at Delmas 33, the former Fort Dimanche; date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Jacques] The Delmas Justice of the Peace signed the arrest warrant. He said that he could not provide all the details because some people [not further identified] said that I would speak out. He told me that I would be taken to see Mrs. Trouillot. The whole night passed but I did not see anyone.

[Reporter] What exactly are the accusations against you?

[Jacques] I do not know yet. They did not tell me. My lawyer is making some phone calls to find out why. Therefore, we do not know yet. I would like to tell the people that I have been arrested, but I do not know why. As soon as I know, I will inform the people.

[Reporter] They told you that Mrs. Trouillot had asked that you be detained, no?

[Jacques] That is what the justice of the peace in Delmas indicated. I was supposed to meet Mrs. Trouillot last night, but up to now, I have not seen anyone.

[Reporter] They say that you were caught with weapons in your car.

[Jacques] No, no, no. I do not possess weapons. They searched me to find out if I had any. I do not carry a weapon because I have nothing against anyone. I know that I am a candidate with a very clean file. I do not understand this matter.

Government Retires Two Manigat Appeal Judges

FL1412233890 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1700 GMT 14 Dec 90

[Text] Two Court of Appeal Judges who were working on Manigat's case against the Provisional Electoral Council [CEP], have been retired by the provisional government.

According to a presidential decree, citizens Emile Bastien and Michel Celestin, judges for the Court of Appeal of the Republic, having reached the age limit provided by the law, are put into retirement. Payments of their pensions will be made.

Suspect Arrested During Funeral Found Innocent

FL1412190590 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1200 GMT 14 Dec 90

[Excerpt] The Military Department of the metropolitan area announces that contrary to rumor, the suspicious individual arrested during yesterday's demonstration was found to carry only a small bag of dirty laundry and a battery-operated toy transmitter. [passage omitted]

De Ronceray and Lafontant Form Alliance

FL1412193590 Port-au-Prince Radio Lumiere Network in Creole 1430 GMT 14 Dec 90

[Text] A last-minute news flash indicates that an alliance has been formed between Professor Hubert de Ronceray's party, Mobilization for National Development [MDN], and Dr. Roger Lafontant's Union for National Reconciliation [URN]. These two men have joined forces for the upcoming elections.

Professor De Ronceray stated in an interview that he has formed an alliance with Roger Lafontant in order to prevent the type of occurrence that marred the elections of 29 November [1987].

Correction to Condemnation of Macoutes

FL1412124290

The following correction pertains to an item headlined "Macoutes Condemned During Ceremony," published in the 14 December Latin America DAILY REPORT, page 6:

Column two, third full paragraph, make read: [Excerpts] An impressive... (supplying correct processing indicator).

Jamaica

Governor Appoints New Police Commissioner

FL1412132590 Bridgetown CANA in English 1108 GMT 14 Dec 90

[Text] Kingston, Jamaica, Dec 14, CANA—Come next year, Jamaica will have a new commissioner of police—Roy Thompson. Thompson, now deputy commissioner, replaces Herman Ricketts who goes on pre-retirement leave on January 10. The appointment of the 57 year old police officer was announced by JAMPRESS, the national news agency. The new commissioner was appointed by the governor general, Sir Florizel Glasspole, on the advice of the police services commission. Thompson, who is married, enlisted in the police force as a constable in 1953.

Montserrat

Finance Minister Osborne Presents Budget

FL1412180590 Bridgetown CANA in English
1736 GMT 14 Dec 90

[Text] Plymouth, Montserrat, Dec 14, CANA—Montserrat chief minister and finance minister, John Osborne, Thursday night presented what he described as a development budget for 1991.

The EC 58,187,110 dollars (one EC dollar equals 37 U.S. cents) package provides for income and company tax relief but calls for increases in motor vehicle licences, some areas of property tax and customs duties. The budget increases from 7,000 to 10,000 dollars the amount on which no income tax will be payable. The rate on company tax was cut from 40 to 30 per cent.

Non-Montserratians will be affected the most by an increase in the property surcharge. Suggesting that many lots in some development areas are being held speculatively, Osborne announced that government is imposing a further regulation tax.

"As the law now stands such land owners who are not Montserratians must pay a one hundred per cent surcharge on property tax if the lands are held undeveloped for five years," he explained.

"I am now proposing that if such lands are held undeveloped for over eight years the surcharge will be five hundred per cent."

Reporting that the government had to raise additional revenue to cover pay increases granted to civil servants this year and planned increases in 1991, Osborne said, "the revenue head which appears the most appropriate is the customs service charge." Noting that revenue from this source was estimated for 1990 at 4.2 million dollars based on a 5 per cent charge, he said with effect from January 1, 1991 the rate will be 8 per cent.

Osborne announced that his government will encourage greater investment by the local private sector. "In order to do this we are making some modifications to our fiscal incentives regime," he said. Foreign enterprises which have an initial investment of less than the equivalent of U.S. 50,000 will not be granted concessions.

"Those above this level will be granted concessions according to the investment band in which they are classified.

"Foreign investment of U.S. 50,000 to 100,000 dollars will be offered duty free concessions only; those with U.S. 100,000 to 500,000 dollars will be offered duty free importation of equipment and a possible tax concession for five years and investment of over U.S. 500,000 will fit into the general fiscal incentives scheme for duty free importation of machinery plus tax concessions for up to ten years," Osborne explained.

On regional trade, Osborne announced that Montserrat has given notice to the Caribbean Community that it will implement the new rules of origin and common external tariff but will retain its old tariff rates initially.

"We have had to take this position because the new rates are in many cases higher than those which exist in Montserrat and this will mean increases in our cost of living, a situation which we cannot afford in these immediate post hurricane times," he added.

Debate on the budget is scheduled to begin next Wednesday, Dec 19.

Trinidad and Tobago

Steady Polling Reported in By-Election

FL1712150590 Bridgetown CANA in English
1440 GMT 17 Dec 90

[Text] Port of Spain, Trinidad, Dec 17, CANA—Steady polling was initially reported as residents of the western Trinidad constituency of Diego Martin Central voted Monday in a by-election. Polling stations opened at 6 AM to receive ballots from the just over 19,000 registered voters who are choosing a successor representative to the late Leo des Vignes, former parliamentary secretary in the prime minister's office who died of injuries sustained during last July's abortive coup attempt.

Former Health Minister Clive Pantin is seeking to retain the seat for the ruling National Alliance for Reconstruction (NAR), which recent opinion polls showed had suffered declining popularity at the national level. The poll is seen by observers as a more accurate barometer of the NAR's public standing, in the run-up to general elections expected next year.

Three other parties have fielded candidates in the by-election: Trevor Balmosa of the main opposition United National Congress (UNC), Ken Valley of the minority opposition People's National Movement (PNM), and Aiyegoro Ome of the National Joint Action Committee (NJAC), a black nationalist group.

Polling closes at 6 PM and the results are expected before midnight.

Government Accused of 'Fixing' Statistics

FL1412224090 Bridgetown CANA in English
2058 GMT 14 Dec 90

[Text] Port of Spain, Trinidad, Dec. 14, CANA—Minority opposition leader, Patrick Manning has accused the government here of fixing statistics to show "an enhanced economic performance" over the last four years. Manning said the 1989 and 1990 reviews of the economy showed contradicting figures under the same tables for the years 1985 to 1990.

Speaking in the debate on the 1991 budget Thursday, he argued that figures were fixed to make the economic performance in 1985 and 1986 worse, and to portray the economic position in 1987 to 1990 in a positive light.

The People's National Movement (PNM) which Manning heads, led the country for 30 years prior 1986 when the National Alliance for Reconstruction came into power.

"There must be sleight of hand here," he declared.

He reasoned that since the figures came from the Central Statistical Office (CSO), "I can only conclude there was political interference in the CSO."

"How in God's name can the minister of finance translate a 0.9 percent decline in the first nine months of the year to a 0.7 percent positive growth by December 1990?" Manning asked. He said that in every sector of the economy there was a decline, and that "after the economic mismanagement of the government, they now resort to mismanaging the figures."

He charged that it was not only in the financial sector that the figures were subject to query but in unemployment as well.

Minister Says Economic Policies Showing Results

*FL1412135090 Bridgetown CANA in English
1119 GMT 14 Dec 90*

[Text] Port of Spain, Trinidad, Dec 14, CANA—Trinidad and Tobago's planning and mobilisation minister, Winston Dookeran, says the government's economic policies have put the country on "the right road."

The signs of economic improvement here have reflected this, he asserted.

"We are clearly in the right road but there is a lot more work to be done," he said in Parliament during debate on the seven billion dollar (one TT dollar equals 23.5 cents U.S.) 1991 budget unveiled last Friday by Finance Minister Selby Wilson. Dookeran criticised the policies of the previous government, saying prior to 1986 the nation was faced with an increasing fiscal deficit, falling reserves, and negative growth.

"What this government has chosen to do is to reverse that trend.... The country at large will understand the direction in which we are moving," the minister said.

He told Parliament the government's economic policy framework was showing "tangible results" in reduced fiscal deficits, economic growth, and debt service stability. He said the fiscal deficit which stood at 2.7 billion dollars in 1982 has been reduced over recent years to the 1990 figure of 400 million dollars. Current growth rate is 0.7 per cent, up from a negative 8.1 per cent position in 1983, he reported.

The administration had also been able to introduce a stable debt service ratio which, according to official projections, should remain at a manageable percentage over the next few years if economic gains are maintained.

PRI Group Forms Faction Called 'Democracy 2000'

PA1712003390 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish
2328 GMT 15 Dec 90

[Text] Mexico City, 15 Dec (NOTIMEX)—Democracy 2000 will denounce all PRI [Institutional Revolutionary Party] officials and authorities "who have brought about the party's loss of credibility," according to Ramiro de la Rosa Bejarano, secretary of the organization. "We have to face up to it, regardless of who gets mad in the party, because we will continue to point out the mistakes of the PRI, De la Rosa said during the first national assembly meeting held by the movement, whose name and status as a faction within the party were ratified.

De la Rosa Bejarano said he has trust in the permanence of the organization, "despite the attacks," and in the work of the "national human rights commission because many of us have received threats from authorities."

"[Word indistinct] does not convince anyone, it has not gained any credibility because it is obtaining doubtful victories and the people clearly believe the PRI is winning because of electoral fraud and repression, especially in the states of Mexico and Yucatan," he said.

During the ceremony in which the statutes, emblem, and colors of the group were approved, De la Rosa said the PRI "must practice what it preaches in order to ask for the people's support."

He said that up until now, the PRI "has not fought corruption, but has feigned ignorance with regard to these actions." He said the only way to deal with this is to reveal the names of those who violate the law, even though this involves some risk.

Meanwhile, Alejandro Diaz Duran, secretary for political action of Democracy 2000, announced that the group will ask the PRI's CEN [National Executive Committee] for a clear and honest relationship, "without conditions," so as to participate with their own candidates in 1991. To achieve this, he said, the organization will hold internal consultations for the nomination of its candidates in the states in which it has an influence.

"Our movement was born and will remain in the PRI, but we will also demand respect for our members, the suspension of repression in the states, and the recognition of our legitimate political maneuvering room," he said.

Costa Rica

Mexican Investment Promoted in Debt Deal

PA1512160690 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish
1200 GMT 12 Dec 90

[Text] Costa Rica and Mexico yesterday afternoon signed a framework agreement [acuerdo marco]. The agreement was signed by Jorge Guardia, executive president of the Central Bank of Costa Rica, and Finance Minister Thelmo Vargas, for Costa Rica; and by [name indistinct], from the Mexican Finance and Public Credit Secretariat.

With this agreement, both nations are committed to promoting Mexican investment in Costa Rica through the exchange of public debt for public and private assets in Costa Rican territory.

The agreement will establish mechanisms for repaying, with nonmonetary assets, the debt of the Central Bank of Costa Rica to the Mexican Government, which has resulted, mainly, from the purchase of oil. These mechanisms are included in the debt restructuring agreement of 1988.

Minister Vargas has indicated that Mexican businessmen are interested in investing in this country and that this will benefit the two nations, as far as payment of the debt is concerned.

Some of the enterprises in which Mexican investors are interested are Cementos del Pacifico, Fertica [Central American Fertilizers, Inc.], and other enterprises that the state could privatize.

As for the status of those enterprises, the Mexicans officials stated that they would abide by the existing rules. The executive presidents of the enterprises have indicated that only 10 percent of the shares would be sold to interested enterprises, but the executive president of the Central Bank of Costa Rica has stated that if an investor wants to buy an entire enterprise, the most logical thing to do would be to sell the entire enterprise.

Costa Rica owes Mexico \$150 million. The debt was renegotiated in 1988 for repayment in 14 years, with a four-year grace period and the option to pay the principal amount and the interest to Mexico, the finance minister said [as heard]. Right now, Costa Rica owes Mexico \$150 million, including \$50 million for the purchase of oil.

El Salvador

Jesuits Charge Army, U.S. With Not Cooperating

PA1512014390 San Salvador EL MUNDO in Spanish
11 Dec 90 p 2

[Communique issued by the Central American Province of the Society of Jesus in San Salvador on 10 December]

[Text] In view of the fact that the murder case of the six Jesuit priests and their two assistants will be brought before a full court, the Central American Province of the Society of Jesus wants to announce the following to the public:

1. We believe that there is enough evidence to bring the case before a full court and that the judge has acted responsibly by doing so.

We know, however, that the investigations have not been concluded because of the lack of cooperation by those who are undoubtedly hiding something.

2. We condemn the lack of real cooperation given by the Armed Forces until now, as revealed by the many contradictions and lies of a large number of military officers who have rendered testimony throughout the year. The fact that the Armed Forces have not conducted a serious internal investigation, which could shed some light on a few dark points and the contradictions and lies by its own members, clearly shows there is a lack of cooperation.

3. We also condemn the lack of cooperation by George Bush's administration in the United States, whose intelligence agencies have refused to turn over documents on the assassination of our fellow companions. We believe the documents contain sufficient material, which could contribute to clearing up the crime.

4. We reject all efforts aimed at limiting the responsibilities of the crime only to those who are facing charges. The magnitude of the crime, the number of members of the Armed Forces who participated in it, and the protection which the assassins had at the time of their crime tell anyone with eyes and intelligence that it was a military operation that was duly planned, organized, and supported by a larger group of military officers, undoubtedly including those with higher ranks.

5. We regret the inefficiency and the lack of work in the last few months by the Crime Investigation Commission, the only auxiliary body of the 4th Criminal Court judge, while it was collecting evidence against the defendants. Certain statements made by the director of this commission would merit the immediate resignation of its members for incompetence and lack of cooperation.

6. The decision to bring the case before a full court does not mean the trial is over. We hope that during the next stages new evidence and documents will lead us closer to the truth. The Salvadoran people and the country's judicial system deserve it, because they have seen too many cases of impunity in too many crimes throughout a cruel, unfair, and increasingly senseless war.

Society of Jesus, Central American Province.

Jesuit Provincial Head on Trial

PA1512020990 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSU
in Spanish 1914 GMT 13 Dec 90

[Text] Father Jose Maria Tojeira, the Jesuits' provincial head in Central America, has said that one of the main obstacles preventing the investigation of the murder of the Jesuit priests from succeeding is the U.S. Government's decision to keep several important documents secret.

Father Tojeira said the administration of the Company of Jesus feels disappointed with the administration of President George Bush because U.S. intelligence agencies refused to hand over 81 documents that contain valuable information on the Jesuits' case. The official said that a few reports were indeed presented, but with corrections, which seems to indicate that something is being concealed. The Jesuits' case was handed over to plenary proceedings by a resolution of 4th Criminal Court Judge Ricardo Zamora, a decision that the Company of Jesus accepted but says is not fully satisfactory because a certain pressure on the judge was observed.

[Begin Tojeira recording] The judge acted correctly. I think, however, that certain limitations have been imposed on him by the U.S. Government regarding the investigation and the contribution of information and evidence. The U.S. Government has withheld certain important documents that are necessary to continue the investigation of the case. Limitations have also been imposed by a considerable number of Armed Forces officers who cannot remember and have lied or fallen into contradictions, which they refuse to correct. There has not been an internal inquiry in the Armed Forces, something we have been demanding for a long time. The contradictions that have occurred also constitute an obstacle against the investigation. At a point when it seemed that the trial could bog down, a judge decided to hand the case over to plenary proceedings. I think this is a correct decision by the judge. Unfortunately, this decision was forced by sectors that have prevented an in-depth inquiry. There is sufficient evidence to pursue the investigation, which is included in the documents that the U.S. agencies possess and refuse to hand over. The contradictions get in the way and prevent the judge from continuing the trial of military officers. The contradictions deal with people who said they overslept in times of war, people who said they cannot remember, and witnesses who shift the stories they told first to the inquiry commission and then the court. I think the judge had no choice. The U.S. Defense Department has admitted it has 81 documents dealing with the Jesuits' murder. Of these 81 documents, the Department of Defense has sent us a small number, all of them crossed out and corrected. It is evident that something is being concealed with these corrected documents. [end recording]

The provincial head's disagreement with the resolution to turn over the Jesuits' case to plenary proceedings is due to the possibility that those who masterminded the

crime will most likely not be tried. Tojeira thinks that the killers are terrorists and said that the Company of Jesus is certain there are more high-ranking officers involved in the crime. He thinks that these officers have not been uncovered because the U.S. Government has handled the case carefully.

[Begin Tojeira recording] We have inferred that there must have been high-ranking officers involved, precisely because of the operation's importance. When the Jesuits were massacred, there were more than 150 soldiers around. There are neighbors who testified they saw armored personnel carriers pass through the area at the same hour in an unusual military movement. Such military movement can only be conducted if there is a military organization responsible for it. The judge cannot continue the investigation and collect evidence, because in practice he is prevented from it. If he has evidence, he will surely be pressured not to use it. If he does not have it, he will be prevented from continuing anyway. This is fundamental. The pressure on the judge is not direct but indirect, smartly handled by the U.S. Embassy and some Army members who approached the judge and forced him to take a step when the situation was not completely ripe. [end recording]

Father Tojeira also said that the fact that the case has been handed over to plenary proceedings could serve to make those who are now in custody change their minds and disclose the names of other military men involved. The Company of Jesus also regretted the Criminal Investigation Commission's inefficiency in dealing with the collection of information on the men involved. He said that the handing over of the case to plenary proceedings does not mean the trial's end, because new evidence and documents could be presented to get closer to the truth. The step taken, however, is important for uncovering the degree of impunity that certain sectors in the country enjoy, Tojeira said.

FMLN: 32 Army Casualties in San Vicente

PA1512035990 Paris AFP in Spanish 0303 GMT
15 Dec 90

[Text] San Salvador, 14 Dec (AFP)—Salvadoran guerrillas tonight reported that they killed 16 soldiers and wounded 16 others during clashes in San Vicente Department, located 58 km east of San Salvador, this afternoon.

The rebels reported that the casualties were inflicted when military convoys were ambushed on the Inter-American and coastal highways.

The Army could not confirm the rebels' report, which was aired by the clandestine radio station Radio Venceremos, but civilian sources reported heavy fighting in this department.

In addition, urban guerrillas of the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front, FMLN, damaged at least four posts in the capital, leaving large areas of San Salvador without power.

Guatemala

Cerezo Views U.S. Military Aid, Strike

PA1512225290 Guatemala City PRENSA LIBRE
in Spanish 13 Dec 90 p 22

[Text] President Vinicio Cerezo said yesterday that military assistance from the United States is so small, that if it were to be cut it would not affect our national security system." [quotation marks as published]

Likewise, he said that U.S. military assistance to Guatemala has progressively dropped, and it is very unlikely that our country will lose that small amount altogether.

The president made this statement at a time when some foreigners are exerting pressure on the government to satisfy their whims without regard for Guatemalan law. He cited the example of the alleged kidnapping of Diana Mack, an Ursuline nun.

The president added that U.S. military assistance earmarked in 1989 amounted to \$2 million, and said that it will be received over a period of four to five years. The money does not, therefore, amount to much.

Meanwhile, he also referred to the penalties that were to be imposed on city transportation drivers who refused to provide their services. He noted that although some warning telegrams had already been sent, a settlement was fortunately reached and the penalties have been dropped.

Honduras

Callejas Views Upcoming Summit, Violence

PA1512005790 Tegucigalpa Voz de Honduras Network
in Spanish 1145 GMT 14 Dec 90

[News conference by President Rafael Leonardo Callejas with unidentified journalists at San Pedro Sula University on 13 December—recorded]

[Excerpts] [Callejas] In my opinion, three essential issues will be discussed at length in Costa Rica. One is the need to strengthen the peace process in the Central American region. The events occurring in El Salvador are worrisome—first because blood is being shed, and second because there is no reason for a war now that the cold war no longer exists between the world powers, which have reached an agreement. It is necessary to hold a dialogue which will result in the establishment of peace in El Salvador. Much has been done, but violence still prevails there. We are seriously affected by this situation, and you have been able to see this. For whatever reason, a Salvadoran military contingent entered our national territory. The increase of war technology in El Salvador

is worrisome. Surface-to-air missiles are being used, and this creates a precarious balance in the Central American region.

The second topic that must be solved immediately is the creation of a free trade zone as the initial step in a Central American integration. World events have clearly defined the situation, and we are en route to a free market world, the reduction of customs restrictions, and the creation of free trade zones. This includes the steps taken by Mexico and the United States; the reality of the U.S.-Canada market; the pledges between Mexico, Venezuela, and Colombia for 1992; the pledges between Mexico and Chile for 1992; and the agreements reached by Argentina and Brazil for 1992. They clearly indicate the new course of action. If we Central Americans insist on maintaining our territories with protectionist measures, and if we lack the competitiveness and complementary elements provided by a broader market, we will realize too late that we should have boarded this train as soon as possible. That is the position we will sponsor in Costa Rica.

The third topic is a current and decisive issue. It is ecology. We have some ideas that differ slightly from the developed world's views. We agree that we must protect national parks and natural resources—there should be no doubts about that position—but the ecological destruction in countries like Honduras, especially the forests, is also the result of our fellow citizens' need for fuel in urban and rural areas. Therefore, our strategy is that we must protect existing reserves, parks, and resources by creating zones that are controlled for this purpose. We must, however, also expand the rural electrification system and improve conditions so that our forests provide fuel, but are also handled appropriately. These two concepts must be integrated to implement an adequate ecological and environmental policy. This will undoubtedly be one of the most important topics discussed during the meeting in Costa Rica.

There are certainly other administrative and regional issues, including the customs services [words indistinct], but these are basically the three main topics. The presidential summits have the advantage that the [words indistinct] than the economy ministers' meetings and other mid-level meetings, and decisions can be adopted on the issues.

[Reporter] In Central America, what alternatives do you believe can be found for the present situation in El Salvador, in this war that has left thousands of dead among military and civilians?

[Callejas] It is a very complex problem, not only because of the bloodshed among Salvadorans, but because of its continental implications and its effects on our country.

For instance, there was an incident yesterday in Guariatas. It was a high-risk situation. There were no further consequences at the time, but I ask what might have

happened if an act of that type had evolved into something bigger. It was a confrontation between the Salvadoran Army and the FMLN [Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front]. It was a very complex situation.

The basic topic in Costa Rica must be to start again and place greater emphasis on the pacification of El Salvador.

[Reporter] Is there going to be a reduction in the presence of the Army in many conflict-ridden areas along the Salvadoran border? What has the commander of the Armed Forces said about increasing the number of troops in those areas?

[Callejas] That decision is up to the High Command, according to the circumstances. I could not comment on that.

[Reporter] Is it or is it not a violation of our territory by Salvadoran troops?

[Callejas] I want to stress what the Foreign Ministry said. I believe that we should be careful. This situation arises out of the very conflict itself. The problem is not the violation, according to a legal viewpoint. We must bear in mind that armed troops entered into national territory, for whatever reason. This is a high-risk situation, not from the legal but from the military viewpoint. There might have been a confrontation in our territory, and that worries us greatly.

We have sent a note to ONUCA [UN Observer Group in Central America] establishing the need to increase their services. We also sent a note to El Salvador expressing our concern about their troops having been forced to enter our territory. [passage omitted]

[Reporter] How about the amnesty the government is going to grant? Will it be a broad or unconditional amnesty, such as some human rights sectors have stated?

[Callejas] We proposed to congress a partial amnesty as agreed upon in our talks. Obviously congress has the capability to generate other types of resolutions.

[Reporter] Why a partial amnesty?

[Callejas] Basically, because that is what we agreed upon at the talks. We are willing to go further than that. When we celebrated Human Rights Day, I said that we were willing to adopt other types of resolutions. We are even asking Honduran citizens who are abroad for ideological reasons to come to meet with us to try to solve their problems, so that they can return to the country. We have proposed a partial amnesty now, but in the future we could expand it, according to the executive branch's opinion.

I agree with the interests of these organizations. That is, however, what we agreed upon with the peasants. There is still time, however, and perhaps in January we can continue along that path. The government has proposed

a partial amnesty as contained in the antiterrorist laws. We recently received letters from some of those groups.

Callejas Marks Armed Forces Anniversary

PA1412170090 Tegucigalpa Voz de Honduras Network in Spanish 1600 GMT 11 Dec 90

[Speech by Honduran President Leonardo Callejas to mark the anniversary of the Armed Forces on 11 December; place not given—recorded]

[Excerpts] Honorable Congress President Rodolfo Irias Navas; Honorable Supreme Court President Osvaldo Ramos Soto; Brigadier General Luis Alonso Discua, Armed Forces commander in chief; distinguished presidential designates; distinguished members of the National Congress; distinguished members of the Supreme Court; former presidents of the Republic; members of diplomatic missions; honorable capital Mayor Nora Gunera de Melgar Castro; former Armed Forces commanders in chief; representatives of labor, peasant, and business organizations; distinguished special guests; officers, cadets, troops, and auxiliary personnel of the Armed Forces; ladies and gentlemen.

Recent events which have shaken the world have eliminated the conflicts and struggles that threatened violence and destruction. These events were a tragic consequence of the East-West confrontation. We Hondurans now sense that the permanent threat of a world war has been removed, as we witness these startling events: the destruction of the Berlin Wall; German reunification, through national concerted efforts and free and sovereign elections; and democratization and political freedom in Eastern Europe's totalitarian nations. Even more recently we have witnessed and analyzed the political and military commitments of the two opposing European organizations on nonaggression and weapons reduction. These great events have certainly prompted changes and transformations in the complex and hopeful international community.

Our Honduras is part of these current world events. These events that offer new hope—the end of the ideological war between the two world powers—have given way to new theories. In any case, however, the consequences left behind by previous conditions have direct and negative effects on the aid granted to our nations.

Ladies and gentlemen, today as we mark the anniversary of the our Armed Forces, we do so convinced of the great and important mission that the community has entrusted to the Honduran Armed Forces. The appointment of new Commander in Chief General Luis Alonso Discua is a decision of the Honduran Armed Forces itself. We take this opportunity to congratulate him on his promotion as brigadier general, as well as all other persons promoted on this day, so important to the Honduran Armed Forces.

The Military High Command's meaningful role during these significantly crucial days for the nation is guaranteed by respect for rules and regulations. We are called upon to give our support to the nation, to protect it from the dangers that persist on our borders, to guarantee its internal stability, and to promote—by means of good government—the nation's positive potential to achieve a better life. [passage omitted]

The Armed Forces have alerted the community in their struggle against drug trafficking. Some of its most important decisions on this issue have significantly contributed toward maintaining international peace and protecting the Honduran family.

I take this opportunity to honor the members of the Armed Forces who have lost their lives in the line of duty. I know that the nation is protected, at the risk of their own lives, by the Armed Forces, through their vigilance, their sacrifices, and their members' patriotism. [passage omitted]

In Central America the specter of war persists, destroying lives and whatever is left of the economies, thereby increasing the grief and suffering of millions of men, women, and children. Our first goal is to protect our nation from these dangers. We must work diligently to achieve peace in Central America; such peace as we Hondurans have enjoyed. Until this goal is achieved, and while awaiting the awakening of a new Central America, we must strengthen our security and defense system. In the midst of promises of a new world, we must not forget our fatherland and the truly hard realities we have to face. One of the true realities surrounding us is the extraordinary fighting capacity that rebels forces have in our neighboring nations. How can we even consider reducing our Armed Forces while Honduras sits in the middle of this area of active conflict? I reiterate that, as long as these geo-political conditions prevail in Central America, I will not allow a reduction in the Honduran Armed Forces. [applause] [passage omitted]

We know that enormous budget cuts must be made, but these public finance demands must not have a bearing on the Armed Forces' elevated and complex responsibilities. My government is convinced that we must proceed to establish immediately a great national project, the goals of which should outline the Honduras we have dreamed of and should build. In this regard, all the leaders of the nation known for their patriotism must be acquainted with these goals, as well as the strategies and policies to be defined and carried out in this project.

The international relations built in step with transformations in a world with which we are not familiar demand such a project, if we are to work more adequately and extract all the good that such relations can offer us. Once more, we should be in a position to discern the country's future more responsibly and more spontaneously. We must prepare ourselves for great changes in the country.

In the name of national prosperity and justice, we must influence the Honduran people to create a strength that cannot be defeated.

We should all agree that, to attain this transformation, we must reaffirm our sovereignty and our own decisions. We must work firmly and steadily to overcome the temptation to hold out our hands. Begging does not strengthen our pride. Sovereignty can be lost when money is owed and not paid. Without sovereignty, we will surely be subjected to pressure from the outside and cease to be masters of our own destiny and our own decisions as governors and the governed.

The greatest complaint that could be made against us would be that we have stood idle and merely looked upon the deplorable state of our economy, the disproportionate growth of our population, and the calamities that have befallen our people. Honduras possesses an enormous wealth of futuristic vision, handed down to us by those who gave it its name, established the republican institutions, and gave their last breaths to establish a regime of public liberties so that the Honduran people could each day be freer, happier, and increasingly the builders of their own destinies.

My government intends to lay the foundations for a modern state. Therefore, we reject the idea that the state must sponsor and regulate the lives of the citizens. Through the appropriation of the means of production and by forming general and specific outlines for capital and its use, we express the need for society to be more independent from the government every day. The Honduran state cannot and should not grow at the expense of lowering the people's standard of living. No one should experience any hardship with regard to food, clothing, health, housing, or credit simply because the state apparatus wants to keep its excessive privileges. We seek to strengthen the country's budget and update the foreign debt, restoring international credit and confidence. [passage omitted]

Zepeda Submits List of Promotions in Armed Forces

PA1512034690 Tegucigalpa EL HERALDO in Spanish
7 Dec 90 p 3

[Letter issued by Defense Minister Francisco Zepeda to the National Congress' Standing Committee in Tegucigalpa on 5 December]

[Text] Members of the National Congress' Standing Committee:

I am honored to address this Standing Committee to request your valuable assistance before the congressional president, so that your secretaries inform the full session of this Legislative Assembly of the request to promote Infantry Colonel Luis Alfonso Discua Elvir to the next rank of brigade general.

Attached please find the corresponding decision by the joint chief of staff of the Honduran Armed Forces.

Sincerely yours,

Aviation Colonel Francisco Zepeda, defense minister.

From cavalry lieutenant colonel to cavalry colonel: Rigoberto Padilla Bejarano.

From artillery lieutenant colonel to artillery colonel: Eugenio Romero Euceda, Abelardo Banegas Gomez, Jose Camilo Castro Hernandez, Fredy Miranda Fiallos, Guillermo Antonio Linares Zepeda.

From engineering lieutenant colonel to engineering colonel: Cristobal Edmundo Corrales Calix.

From infantry lieutenant colonel to infantry colonel: Francisco Jose Davila Nolasco, Jose Martinez Amador, Jorge Alberto Puerto Martinez, Jorge Alberto Cubas Romero, Ramon Rosa Izaguirre, Miguel Angel Garcia Cruz, William Allan Copeland Echevarria, Guadalupe Antonio Reythell Caballero, Jose Guadalupe Martinez Sanchez, Rene Pineda Sagastume, Jose Armando Rivera Gomez, Guillermo Terencio Gomez Hernandez, Jose Francisco Zolorzano Ordenez, Rigoberto Vargas Aguilar, Guillermo Eduardo Maboudeau Sanchez.

From police lieutenant colonel to police colonel: Julio Cesar Chavez Aguilar.

From police major to police lieutenant colonel: Julio Cesar Funez Alvarez, Agustin Cardona Macias.

From aviation lieutenant colonel to aviation colonel: Lazaro Urbina Ordenez.

From aviation major to aviation colonel: Jose Alfredo San Martin Flores, Medardo Pena Ruiz, Gerardo Enrique Carvajal Midence, Octavio Milla Reyes, Ramon Sarmiento Soto, Jorge Tosta Appel.

From aviation maintenance major to aviation maintenance colonel: Everto Amos Melgar Castro, Roberto Antonio Rivera Alvarez.

From aviation captain to aviation major: Venancio Cervantes Suazo, Miguel Enrique Caceres Diaz.

From infantry mayor to infantry colonel: Rodolfo Eugenio Interiano Portillo, Raul Edgardo Estrada Guzman, Oscar Ramon Hernandez Chavez, Raul Gerardo Escoto Castellanos, Jose Antonio Cuellar Rios, Jose Genero Ramos Guzman, Raul Banegas Cruz, Rodolfo Raul Diaz Velasquez, Pedro Herrera Valle, Luis Alonso Cordon Barahona, Juan Ramon Mejia Paz, Wilfredo Leva Cabrera, Jaime Adolfo Cabus Rosales, Angel Aquiles Atunez Rivera.

From communications lieutenant colonel to communications colonel: Jose Isaias Barahona Herrera.

From cavalry major to cavalry lieutenant colonel: Jorge Abelardo Andino Almendarez.

From artillery major to artillery colonel: Felix Umana Chavarria, Napoleon Santos Aguilar, Cesar Augusto Zaldivar Porta.

From ship of the line lieutenant to corvette captain in the general corps: Miguel Angel Silva Aguilar.

From frigate captain to ship of the line captain in the general corps: Hernan Medina Diaz.

From corvette captain to frigate captain: Rolado Gonzalez Flores.

From infantry captain to infantry major: Carlos Antonio Cuellar Castillo, Jose Amilcar Hernandez Flores, Jose Francisco Ordenez Barahona, Jose Gerardo Fuentes Gonzalez, Jose Maria Rios Yanez, Uriel Cantor Galeano, Jose Santos Reyes Argueta, Hector David Molina Mendoza.

From artillery captain to artillery major: Jose Rosa Doblado Padilla, Jorge Vidal Sorto Guevara.

From cavalry captain to cavalry major: Emilio David Rodriguez Alvarado.

* Devaluation To Increase Customs Revenues

91CA0024C San Pedro Sula TIEMPO in Spanish
16 Oct 90 p 3

[Excerpt] Tegucigalpa—The state will collect over 100 million lempiras per year through the import tax with the new customs valuation factor, namely, 5.50 lempiras per dollar, effective as of yesterday. Hence, there would be no need to increase the selective taxes on consumption.

Last Thursday the Central Bank's board of directors passed a resolution making the dollar exchange in the interbank system uniform with that of the customs valuation. It also loosened restrictions on the interest rate for commerce, exporting, and consumption.

Prior to this ruling, the dollar was being sold in the interbank system for as much as 5.75 lempiras, and was being purchased for six lempiras as a maximum. Meanwhile, the import tax was being set based on the customs valuation factor, which was 4.20 lempiras per dollar.

As of yesterday, the government began charging based on the new customs valuation factor, namely, 5.50 lempiras per dollar, which will bring in more revenues.

For example, if the CIF [cost-insurance-freight] price of a product was \$1,000, with a 20 percent customs duty, the state accrued 840 lempiras in import taxes, based on the customs valuation factor of 4.20 lempiras. With the charging of 5.50 lempiras, however, 1,100 lempiras will be collected: in other words, an additional 260.

According to the national budget for fiscal year 1991, it is estimated that 643 million lempiras will be collected by way of traditional import taxes. Nevertheless, this

amount could increase by 180 million lempiras if the customs valuation factor of 5.50 lempiras per dollar is applied.

With the rise in selective taxes on consumption for various items termed as luxury products, the government has programmed earnings of approximately 100 million lempiras. That figure is improved with the other decision made by the Central Bank's board of directors. Hence, there will be no need for the National Congress to approve this new tax levy. [passage omitted]

Nicaragua

Chamorro Signs Law Abolishing SMP Service

PA1712043690 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish
2107 GMT 14 Dec 90

[Text] Managua, 14 Dec (NOTIMEX)—Nicaraguan President Violeta Chamorro today signed a law abolishing Patriotic Military Service (SMP), one of her election campaign's platform promises.

The Nicaraguan Legislative Assembly yesterday unanimously agreed to repeal the SMP law, created by the Sandinist Government in 1983, which led to massive conscription of young men between the ages of 18-25.

The young men spent two years in the active military service and thereafter formed part of the reserves.

Widely known as the "Cachorros," they were part of the Battalions for Unconventional Warfare (BLI) that very efficiently fought the counterrevolutionary forces during the periods of heaviest military combat.

Thousands of young men were recruited, at times by force. Other hundreds of young men fled to other countries such as Costa Rica and the United States to avoid military service.

President Chamorro's main election campaign theme was the elimination of the SMP, which was suspended in April when she assumed the Presidency.

"This is the end of prison for the young men. Now they will go out and look for jobs," said President Chamorro when she signed the bill.

At the National Assembly, the Sandinist wing approved the repeal of the law "with the same enthusiasm with which it was created, when the nation needed it. We are conscious that it has fulfilled its historical role, and we hope that the specter of war will never rise again," said Deputy Omar Cabezas.

Military Budget Cut of \$19.6 Million Approved

PA1512021490 Paris AFP in Spanish 0141 GMT
15 Dec 90

[Text] Managua, 14 Dec (AFP)—The Nicaraguan National Assembly today approved a proposal made by

the National Opposition Union (UNO) aimed at reducing by \$19.6 million the 1991 military budget, which was originally estimated at \$78.6 million.

After three hours of heated debates between pro-government and opposition legislators of the Sandinist National Liberation Front (FSLN), the reduction was approved by 52 votes in favor and 39 votes against.

This cut in defense spending was recently termed "excessive" by Sergio Ramirez, leader of the FSLN legislative wing, whose party proposed a reduction of only \$6 million.

The \$19.6-million military budget cut will be used to increase the budgets of the Health, Education, Culture, Labor, and Communication and Transportation Ministries, as well as some government agencies.

EPS Backs Chamorro Veto

PA1612022090 Panama City ACAN in Spanish
0006 GMT 16 Dec 90

[Text] Managua, 15 Dec (ACAN-EFE)—The Sandinist People's Army (EPS) warned today that it "will by no means allow" 10,000 soldiers to be "thrown out into the streets" because of a reduction in the Defense Ministry budget from \$78.6 to \$58.95 million.

The General Command and the staff of the EPS made public today a communique calling on pro-government legislators to accept the veto announced today by President Violeta Chamorro on the large reduction in military spending, which amounts to \$19.65 million.

The 51 pro-government deputies and independent Deputy Moises Hassan last night approved a modified 1991 national general budget bill, which amounts to approximately \$500 million, which provides for a reduction from \$78.6 to \$58.95 million in military spending.

The 39 Sandinist legislators, who only accepted a \$6 million reduction, did not vote as a sign of protest, because they said that this cut in military spending will leave 10,000 soldiers jobless and will turn the EPS into the smallest army in the region.

The EPS urged all legislators to act with "calm and a high sense of patriotic responsibility," and it warned that "it trusts that this situation which is pushing Nicaragua to the edge of an abyss be constructively overcome next week."

In its communique, the EPS said that "extremists" are trying to generate "instability" and sink Nicaragua in "chaos, by causing a bloodbath more terrible and painful than those of the past."

The EPS General Command recalled that Army Chief General Humberto Ortega and Presidency Minister Antonio Lacayo signed the transition agreement on 27 March, which guarantees stability and professionalism in the Army.

This year, the Army has been reduced from 98,180 to 28,334 permanent members which, according to Ortega, make the EPS the smallest army in the region.

Godoy: No Disputes With Chamorro 'in Principle'

PA1412151790 San Jose LA NACION in Spanish
3 Dec 90 p 5A

[Interview with Vice President Virgilio Godoy by Juan Fernando Cordero in San Jose, Costa Rica on 30 November]

[Text][Cordero] Your differences with President Violeta Chamorro are considered to be one of the causes of the climate of unrest and recent disturbances in Nicaragua. What is your opinion?

[Godoy] I have no differences with her in principle. I have repeated on several occasions that my relationship with Mrs. Chamorro has not been merely respectful, but cordial. I openly, clearly, and unmistakably differ with Presidency Minister Antonio Lacayo, who, besides enjoying Mrs. Chamorro's absolute trust, is the leader among the government officials. My differences with him stem from the fact that I cannot understand how we are going to change if we do not change old structures.

The Sandinist news media, as well as the government news media headed by Lacayo, worked on creating the image that the vice president was openly confronting the president and even supported a coup d'etat. If saying such things were not so often amusing, they would be considered colossally stupid, because the only one who can stage a coup in Nicaragua is Humberto Ortega, who has over 30,000 men under his command.

[Cordero] Then what is happening in Nicaragua? Why are things moving so slowly?

[Godoy] There are several reasons for that. First, it is not easy to dismantle the power structure created during 11 years of Sandinist dictatorship. Then, unexpected developments took place, which often happens in politics, such as the actions by some National Opposition Union (UNO) leaders, some of whom had just arrived in the country. They got the odd idea that the country could coexist with the Sandinists, coexist in a very peculiar way, which was another way of sharing power.

This situation has slowed and even hampered more efficient handling of the democratization process. We do not know when this began, but it became strongly evident exactly on 26 February, the day following the elections.

In the government, there is a trend of maintaining the best possible relations with the Sandinist National Liberation Front, chiefly with what we would describe as the third faction headed by the Ortegas.

[Cordero] Could the process have been different in some way? Was there room for that?

[Godoy] I am so convinced, and that different way should have begun the very day of the transfer of power on 25 April, with Humberto Ortega's removal as Armed Forces chief. That would have told the people that there really existed a commitment to change, since Ortega was the symbol of unique political violence that was evident in such remarks as: The Sandinist regime will last 1,000 years.

The signing of one or more "transitional protocols" between General Ortega and Minister Lacayo wound up hampering the democratic process. Now we need greater political commitment, which is better expressed and articulated.

[Cordero] How was Ortega able to stay, if Chamorro's entire cabinet threatened to resign before taking office?

[Godoy] That was a very unique situation, which almost prompted a crisis before the government took office. I know Chamorro tried to remove Ortega, but others countered her plan and the general stayed. In fact, it is said that one very well-known Latin American politician got involved, because he is the chief backer of the decision to keep Ortega as chief of the Army....

[Cordero] Do you mean Carlos Andres Perez?

[Godoy] We would have to say all indications on this topic point to him, although Lacayo held that position too. Before 25 April, at a meeting at the INCAE [Central American Institute of Business Administration] building in Montefresco which 50 persons attended, the matter was discussed from noon until almost midnight. In the end we agreed to express our opinions in writing. Only three persons voted in favor of Ortega staying, and those three won.

[Cordero] Those three were Chamorro, Lacayo, and....

[Godoy] Current Government Minister Carlos Hurtado, who accepted in his ministry a large number of former officers of the National State Security Directorate, a repressive entity that has been disbanded, and gave many of them positions of authority in the police force. It is a little like changing things so that everything remains the same.

[Cordero] Is it recognized that Lacayo is the one who governs in Nicaragua?

[Godoy] He really has a great number of responsibilities, delegated upon him by President Chamorro, as the person with her greatest and most absolute trust. Lacayo is like a master key, wherever something important is going on, he is there. Nicaragua has a very strong presidential regime, but such handling makes one think that this is almost a parliamentarian system and that Chamorro is the chief of state and Lacayo the chief of government. Hence, it is not farfetched to say that he is actually governing Nicaragua.

[Cordero] What lies behind the mayors' movement?

[Godoy] It is an new, unplanned, spontaneous movement called "Let Us Save Democracy," and it is showing tremendous strength, although municipalities have not been very strong in the past. The mayors are asking for two things: the disarmament of civilians who received weapons from the Sandinists, and the removal of Humberto Ortega, Antonio Lacayo, and Carlos Hurtado.

Mayors 'Satisfied' With Chamorro Compliance

PA1512012390 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish
0330 GMT 14 Dec 90

[Text] The mayors of Region 5 are satisfied with how President Violeta Chamorro is complying with the agreements reached at the 21 November meeting, according to Agustin Jarquin Anaya, adviser from the Let Us Save Democracy Civic Movement. He says, however, that not all of the military buildings that were dismantled were military bases. He said that some of them were offices, like the Support the Sandinist Fighter office and others.

[Begin recording] [Jarquin] We were in Juigalpa as representatives of the Let Us Save Democracy Civic Movement to advise the Region 5 mayors. The movement, and especially the mayors, praise the way in which President Violeta Chamorro is complying with the commitments she and her cabinet made on 21 November. It is being said, however, that among the 19 military installations, there were many that were simply offices.

[Reporter] How many bases are there?

[Jarquin] I could not say exactly. The mayors were going over the list delivered by General Joaquin Cuadra. Several meetings were held with Santiago Rivas, president of INDIFOM [not further identified]. Among other things, some mayors complained that some bases very close to their towns have not been dismantled. This is a complex process. The government has offered to reduce the number of bases. We hope this will be done as soon as possible. The mayors, councilmen, deputies, members of the political councils, and even members of the Nicaraguan Resistance who make up the Let Us Save Democracy Civic Movement, however, are currently satisfied with President Chamorro. They express their vote of confidence for her to continue complying with the promises she made to the people. [end recording]

Official Announces 'Changes' in Government

PA1412141290 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish
1232 GMT 14 Dec 90

[Text] President Violeta Chamorro is expecting her cabinet to resign by Christmas. Presidency Minister Antonio Lacayo announced that there will be changes within the government, although he did not mention names.

Telecommunications Employees Threaten To Strike

PA1412185790 Managua Radio Ya in Spanish
1200 GMT 14 Dec 90

[Text] The labor conflict in the Nicaraguan Telecommunications and Postal Services [Telcor] continues. The conflict could be extended to other parts of the country, depending on how the situation develops.

Telecommunications workers from Region 4 have been demanding that a collective labor agreement be respected. They are also demanding that the benefits established in those agreements be granted.

Meanwhile, workers from the radio frequencies' office are demanding the dismissal of that office's director, Reinerio Montiel.

National communications with Region 4 and communication lines with Costa Rica and Panama have been negatively affected by the strike.

Meanwhile, the Labor Ministry has announced that the labor protest is illegal.

Telcor workers could declare a general strike at the national level within 48 hours if Telcor Director Pablo Vigil remains indifferent toward the workers' problems and does not satisfy their demands.

The Telcor labor union has charged that Vigil has ordered the militarization of Telcor installations and that he is withholding the workers' paychecks. In view of Vigil's intransigency and the increasingly forceful vindictive actions taking place in Telcor against the workers, the labor union has decided on a 48-hour deadline for solving the workers' demands, otherwise the strike will be implemented.

The Telcor labor union appealed to the Supreme Court as soon as the Labor Ministry declared the Telcor workers' strike illegal.

Strike Pending Meeting With Lacayo

PA1512221590 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish
1200 GMT 15 Dec 90

[Text] A new round of negotiations will begin on 18 December in search of a solution to the Telcor [Nicaraguan Telecommunications and Postal Services] labor conflict. Negotiations will be conducted with Presidency Minister Antonio Lacayo. Minister Lacayo has agreed to meet with Telcor labor leaders from Region 4 and from the federation of Telcor unions at the national level after Telcor Director Pablo Vigil and Labor Vice Minister Francisco Rosales refused yesterday to accept the workers' demands.

Telcor Union Secretary General Mario Valentin has made the following statement to us:

[Begin recording] [Valentin] Through Comrade Lucio Jimenez we contacted Antonio Lacayo to tell him that if

we want to resolve this conflict without confrontation we must be flexible. We, including Mr. Lacayo, decided to meet on Tuesday at 0830.

The 72-hour deadline that we gave the Labor Ministry to prevent the strike and to form a reconciliation board, based on the demands we presented on 28 November, expires at 0800 Monday. From a legal point of view, as of that moment we are free to adopt whatever action we deem necessary.

In view of the possibility of resolving the conflict through Mr. Lacayo, however, we will wait for the results of the 18 December meeting.

[Reporter] What will happen if no solution is found in the meeting with Mr. Lacayo?

[Valentin] This is the last alternative. There is no other alternative for a negotiated solution [words indistinct]. We secured nothing there. We have said that the conflict would be generalized, and we would be forced to do that. [end recording]

UNO Deputy's Home Attacked; No Casualties

PA1612163390 Panama City ACAN in Spanish
1545 GMT 16 Dec 90

[Text] Managua, 16 Dec (ACAN-EFE)—Unidentified individuals threw two demolition grenades at the home of Deputy Humberto Castilla, a Nicaraguan Socialist Christian. There were no casualties, but the explosion caused property damage and commotion in the Managua neighborhood where the incident took place, political sources have said.

Agustin Jarquin, leader of the National Democratic Confidence Party (PDC), of which Castilla is a member, told ACAN-EFE that at 0200 this morning (0800 GMT) two explosive devices went off and one of them destroyed the deputy's car, while another was defused by police experts.

At the time of the incident, the deputy and his wife were not home because they had traveled to Miami, Florida, for a business trip on Friday.

Three of Castilla's sons and another young man who were home at the time of the incident were unharmed but emotionally affected by the commotion that resulted from the explosion.

Jarquin said that shortly after the incidents took place, an anonymous caller telephoned Castilla's house and told one of the deputy's sons: "Just as the car was left, we will leave your father."

Up until now, no person or group has claimed responsibility for the attack.

Castilla is one of the leaders of the ruling National Opposition Union (UNO), which on Friday voted for a drastic budget reduction for the Sandinist People's Army (EPS) in 1991.

He is also the leader of a rebel movement against the government called "Let Us Save Democracy," which supported the former "contras" in November when they occupied stretches of the road that joins the Pacific and Atlantic Coasts, demanding land and support programs, for which they had demobilized in June.

Arms Cache Found in Sabana Grande Area

PA1412184490 Managua Radio Catolica in Spanish
2300 GMT 12 Dec 90

[Text] Government Ministry Delegate to Region 6 Jaime Cuadra denounced the seizure of an arsenal large enough to make a city with a population of 60,000 disappear. The weapons were found on 11 December on a ranch that belongs to Anibal Rodriguez, Jr., a Sandinist supporter, in the Sabana Grande area, San Ramon Municipality.

Jaime Cuadra said that the arsenal is being kept at the warehouse of the Government Ministry in Matagalpa and that it might be destroyed in public, except for those devices that are too dangerous to destroy in that fashion.

The cache includes 165 RPG-7 rockets, 187 charges for RPG rockets, 222 82mm mortar shells, 252 cartridges for Spider machine guns, 324 fuses for 82mm mortar shells, 268 primers for 82mm mortar shells, 590 flight primers for 82mm mortars, and 11 AK-47 rifles.

Lacayo Announces Chamorro Plan To Visit USSR

PA1412200590 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish
1200 GMT 14 Dec 90

[Text] Presidency Minister Antonio Lacayo says that two coup attempts have been staged in Nicaragua in an effort to exert pressure on President Chamorro's government. One of these coup attempts, which took place in July, was led by social organizations identified with the FSLN [Sandinist National Liberation Front]; the other took place in November, and was directed by a group from the pro-government UNO [National Opposition Union] alliance. These coup attempts have hindered international cooperation.

Lacayo said that Japan has donated \$10 million to Nicaragua in agricultural raw material and equipment, and that he would like that country to grant \$100 million in aid to Nicaragua to promote the country's economic recovery process, following a war that lasted over nine years during the Sandinist administration.

Lacayo also announced that within the next few months, President Chamorro will travel to the USSR, and that during a tour of Moscow, Foreign Cooperation Minister Erwin Krugger made arrangements to receive oil from the USSR, and discussed renegotiation of a \$3 billion debt of the Sandinist government.

Lacayo, considered President Chamorro's confidant, said that social stability in Nicaragua is essential to the country's recovery, and he criticized Vice President

Virgilio Godoy for heading a group of politicians who staged a coup attempt in November in the eastern part of the country. Lacayo said that when Godoy wishes to support President Chamorro's government plan, as he pledged during the electoral campaign, he will be included in government activities.

In Nicaragua, Lacayo said, there has been a burst of energy following the elections, which led to absolute freedom and even libertinism among the media.

Panama

Endara Discusses Resisting U.S. 'Pressure'

PM1712135790 Barcelona LA VANGUARDIA
in Spanish 29 Nov 90 p 12

[Interview with President Endara by Joaquim Ibarz in Panama City; date not given]

[Text] Panama City—Panamanian President Endara asserts that he will not yield to U.S. pressure seeking the signing of a legal assistance treaty which would jeopardize Panama's banking system and end the tax haven sought by investors.

"I know how to withstand pressures well, perhaps because I have experience as a negotiator, and as such I have learned to be insensible to pressures. I scarcely feel them," Guillermo Endara stated in the course of an interview held at his office in the Las Garzas Presidential Palace.

[Ibarz] Foreign Minister Linares says that he will not sign the agreement in the form in which the United States currently proposes it. Would you sign it?

[Endara] I will sign it when the Panamanians agree and accept it. The treaty, as it now stands, is not a matter of sovereignty or dignity, or anything of the kind. It is a matter of its desirability or otherwise. We do not wish to deliver a blow to our banking system and our economic system. We do not wish at all to damage the financial system or to harm the driving force of our economy. Although we do not want this system to be used by the drug traffickers, neither will we turn it into a system subject to U.S. jurisdiction.

[Ibarz] Will you not submit if the United States demands that you sign it?

[Endara] I do not believe that it demands it to that extent. It knows us well enough to know that it cannot demand those things. If it were so, we would never submit. We will sign the agreements that suit Panama. They offered us a treaty identical to that with Mexico. We do not accept it because we believe that the Mexicans gave them too much. We do not want our banking system to be a haven for criminals. U.S. tax and stock market matters are another matter. We will not make our system create crimes in Panama which actually are no

crimes. We will not do what we do not wish to do just because Washington so demands.

[Ibarz] It is said that the U.S. ambassador—the so-called "proconsul Hilton"—actually rules in Panama.

[Endara] In Panama the government rules. Hilton is no proconsul. He is an ambassador who speaks Spanish poorly, but I prefer his poor Spanish to his talking to us in good English.

[Ibarz] Many observers agree that the United States is acting to weaken your government and to make it more docile...

[Endara] I have heard that view and it could be true. I do not believe it. Rather, I believe that they attack me in the United States in order to weaken Bush, who is preparing for his reelection. They are trying to show that the card which Bush played with the invasion was a mistake. They want to give the impression that in Panama there is a government which is weak or the same as Noriega's. The truth is that this government was elected not by Bush but by the Panamanian people on 7 May, as you know.

[Ibarz] What would Panama be like today if you had not accepted the Presidency when the invasion occurred?

[Endara] We would probably be a U.S. colony. The invasion would not have been stopped; the plan was already under way and zero hour had been set. We learned of the invasion five hours earlier. If we had not accepted, the Americans would have imposed occupation or invasion authorities on us. We had no other alternative.

[Ibarz] Did you suffer greatly because you were called a U.S. puppet abroad?

[Endara] At first, there was considerable lack of understanding. What really matters to me is the Panamanian people's opinion and my own opinion. Spain behaved in an exemplary manner; it condemned the invasion, which none of us wanted, but supported and helped the new government.

[Ibarz] The Panamanians seem disillusioned with democracy...

[Endara] I do not believe that disillusionment extends to the people. You could find it in certain elitist professional and political circles. We have often explained that not all problems can be resolved just by establishing democracy.

[Ibarz] The Americans were very generous with the contras and in arming Noriega. They are sparing with aid for your government...

[Endara] Bush has acted well and wishes to help us. Unfortunately, Congress has been unwilling to support him. The aid has now been approved and there are projects under way. It is a matter of two bureaucracies—

the tiny Panamanian bureaucracy and the huge U.S. bureaucracy—setting to work.

[Ibarz] The prevailing impression is that the United States is withholding the aid as blackmail to make you sign the treaty...

[Endara] I have not felt this. The delay is caused rather by two bureaucratic systems. Aid is arriving, but not on the massive scale for which we were hoping.

[Ibarz] Have you demanded no compensation for the invasion?

[Endara] Compensation is a big word which implies a conflict between Panama and the United States. We believe that we can secure aid without any need for conflicts.

Sovereignty Over Canal, Noriega, and Resurgence of Nationalism

[Ibarz] Will you make concessions to the United States regarding sovereignty over the Canal?

[Endara] In the year 2000 the Canal will be wholly Panamanian. There will be no concession on the matter of sovereignty. Unlike Noriega, this government has a tremendous awareness of the Canal's future. In just nine years' time we will take over the administration of the Canal; we must make good use of the time. I have asked Japan for assistance because it is the most important customer. We hope for aid from Japan and the United States not to replace us but to use the Canal better.

[Ibarz] Following the trauma of the invasion, a resurgence of nationalism can now be seen...

[Endara] That is very clear. Noriega talked a great deal about nationalism, but nobody believed him because we knew that he was talking about false nationalism. People were ashamed to be Panamanian. Under the dictatorship nationalism waned, and now a genuine nationalism is reviving. After 20 December [1989], people spoke of liberation, and now they speak of invasion.

[Ibarz] Are you scared that Noriega will go free and turn up in Panama some day?

[Endara] We are not scared or even afraid of him. If the United States releases him, we wish to try him in Panama. The judicial and penal system, although not perfect, is now changing.

[Ibarz] Does it seem right to you that Noriega can make whatever phone calls he pleases, with which he seeks to destabilize your government?

[Endara] It seems very wrong to me. I have rebuked Cuba, because it emerges that Noriega is communicating with that country's embassy in order to speak with Panamanian refugees. This is part of the conversations broadcast by CNN.

[Ibarz] Has Noriega called you from prison?

[Endara] Never, never...

[Ibarz] Are you sure?

[Endara] Sure, believe me.

Endara Hopes To 'Never' Call U.S. Troops Again

PA1612014990 Panama City ACAN in Spanish
0016 GMT 16 Dec 90

[Text] Puntarenas, Costa Rica, 15 Dec (ACAN-EFE)—Panamanian President Guillermo Endara said today he hopes he "will never again have to ask for help from U.S. troops," as occurred on 5 December when he faced a rebellion by approximately 100 policemen.

Endara told ACAN-EFE that the decision to ask for help from the U.S. Southern Command headquartered on the banks of the Panama Canal "was my responsibility, but I do not want to repeat it."

The president added that he is confident he has the support of the Panamanian people and the United States to form "a civilian and demilitarized police without coupist interests."

Panama currently has a Public Force that replaced the Defense Forces which were led by General Manuel Antonio Noriega and were dismantled when U.S. troops invaded the country on 20 December 1989.

On that occasion, Endara, who had won the May 1989 elections which Noriega annulled, took the oath of office as Panamanian president on one of the U.S. military bases in Panama.

Despite his close ties with Washington, Endara denied he is under the tutelage of the U.S. Government.

"I do not consider myself as such, and I hope that in the future Panama will have sufficient strength to defend its democracy," Endara stressed. He is attending the ninth summit of Central American presidents as an "observer." The summit is being held in Puntarenas, a port on Costa Rica's Pacific coast.

Regarding his role in the summit, Endara emphatically stated: "I come as an observer, to learn, and to also support the decisions that are made."

Bush Remarks on U.S. Army Presence Criticized

PA1612230690 Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE
PANAMA in Spanish 16 Dec 90 p A-4

[Unattributed editorial: "Democratic Stability and U.S. Troops"]

[Text] Foreign Minister Julio Linares and other members of the current cabinet have on many occasions reportedly told the local and foreign media that the presence of additional [extraordinaria] U.S. troops on the national territory would end by 20 December. Moreover, according to those same reiterations, joint patrols

in the country between the U.S. Army and the National Police would also end. For the defenders of our territorial integrity and lovers of true freedom, these announcements always constituted a great patriotic relief and represented significant progress in our nationalistic efforts. Unfortunately, the ongoing process to liberate our territory was obstructed on 5 December when U.S. troops, on the request of the president of the Republic himself, again intervened in our domestic affairs in a belligerent fashion.

This has been fully confirmed by President George Bush during an official visit to Caracas, Venezuela, when he pointed out that U.S. troops will remain in Panama until democratic stabilization is achieved in the country. The U.S. President made such categorical statements without being prompted by the Panamanian Government. By failing to establish a withdrawal deadline, the presence of foreign troops on national territory seems to be indefinite and subjected to the U.S. President's interpretation. It is evident that those statements stand as a considerable retrogression in our ongoing efforts to recover our identity as nation. President Bush's statements clearly suggest that as long as Panama and the Panamanians fail to achieve full democracy we will continue to be an occupied country.

The new U.S. position and the prudent silence maintained by our government shows that all efforts toward achieving that goal have completely vanished. This idea, which is obviously based on the startling 5 December developments, prompts us to reflect upon what obstacles prevent us from achieving democratic stability in the country. Who is favored by this atmosphere of uncertainty lurking in the Republic? We have pointed out on various occasions that government leaders are diverting their attention to unimportant problems while virtually neglecting the issues that concern our people the most. Our rulers are called to consolidate democracy through the implementation of socially responsible actions that will meet the needs of a great majority of the citizens. The citizens are mostly displeased and frustrated with problems within the government. Unfortunately, for many Panamanians in the opposition and the government itself, the expected objectives have not yet been achieved a few days before the first anniversary of the bloody U.S. invasion and the advent of the current administration. All these incidents have hindered the achievement of a democratic stability that would please President Bush and thwart the Panamanians' hope to proudly display our national identity.

It does not seem that we are capable of living alone in democracy or achieving its objectives. National reconciliation and reconstruction and the moral, economic, and political benefits for which Panamanians have struggled so hard are vanishing amidst the serious crisis that is affecting us. Also fading away is the aspiration of all Panamanians to present ourselves to the world as an independent, free, and sovereign nation. Political, economic, and sectarian interests seem to have blocked these goals throughout our history.

Endara Acknowledges Efforts of Public Force

PA1412193890 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 1736 GMT 14 Dec 90

[Text] President Guillermo Endara has announced his first Public Force promotions, and he has acknowledged the efforts of the noncommissioned officers and troops. With President Guillermo Endara Galimany, Ricardo Arias Calderon, second [as heard] vice president and minister of government and justice, and National Police Director Ebrahim Asvat in attendance, a ceremony was held this morning in the courtyard of the National Police headquarters for several members of the Public Force, whose work and loyalty to the institution were publicly acknowledged.

At this quiet ceremony, the president also received the new flag of the Public Force. Meanwhile, Government and Justice Minister Arias Calderon addressed the Public Force:

[Begin Arias Calderon recording] This new institution has resulted from the work of its members, officers, and agents. An effort has been made to prevent us from making this new institution what the Panamanian people want it to be. The attempt was the result of nostalgia for a past which will not return; it was the action of a few people who are devoid of profound democratic convictions; it was an effort to create the impression that the Public Force is not concerned about the human fate of its officers and members. So far, these individuals have not managed to prevent us from building this new structure, nor will they do so.

I must refer specifically to the pretext that was used more recently in an attempt to prevent us from continuing to build the Public Force. The pretext was that its members' human needs were not being met. For the past several weeks, at the president's behest, the necessary bureaucratic process was conducted, and it was finally completed a few days ago, thereby enabling us to grant promotions that had already been approved in years past, but which had not yet been made effective with regard to salaries. Almost 1,000 such promotions are being processed so that those promoted can receive their corresponding salaries. [end recording]

The Public Force will continue to take firm action against any form of violence, Second [as heard] Vice President Arias Calderon said today.

[Begin Arias Calderon recording] The Public Force acted only following truly incredible acts of violence. They were forced to act very firmly, and they will do so every time there are violent provocations like yesterday's. Thank you very much. [end recording]

Endara Lambastes Traitors, Coup Plotters

PA1412202190 Panama City Radio KW Continente in Spanish 1706 GMT 14 Dec 90

[Report by Jenny Lee Martinez in Panama City]

[Text] The government cannot work with traitors and coup plotters, President Guillermo Endara has stated, referring to the actions of labor union members who have been dismissed for participating in the strike and in coup planning.

[Begin recording] [Journalist] What will you do about the latest events in the country?

[Endara] We will maintain order.

[Journalist] Are you prepared, as the leader of the country and as president, to handle a social explosion, meaning a series of public employee demonstrations to reject the measures that have been adopted?

[Endara] Do not be such a pessimist. I do not think it is that bad. I believe that the group is minuscule. The public employees who feel disenchanted are traitors who have betrayed democracy. They tried to perpetrate a coup d'etat against Panama. They are only a few. I believe that all the dismissals have been carried out; it will not be necessary to order more because everyone has been cleaned out.

[Journalist] Referring to the traitors' issue, the names of persons close to your government—politically speaking—have been mentioned for some time as being involved in destabilizing movements. Why have the names of those people been withheld?

[Endara] I know of no one and I have not seen the slightest evidence on that. We will do everything we can for the public employees, everything, because they are public employees, because they render their services to the Republic. We will do everything we can for them, within our means.

Minuscule groups are engaged in subversive plans here. We know that and we have told the citizenry. I do not believe that they will prosper in the least. Do not talk about violence so much, because we are talking about a minuscule group. The participation of those who have been dismissed has been fully confirmed. It has been fully confirmed that they participated. [end recording]

Legislative Assembly Passes Bill Firing Workers

Demonstrators Chase Legislators

PA1412231490 Panama City ACAN in Spanish
2116 GMT 14 Dec 90

[Text] Panama City, 14 Dec (ACAN-EFE)—Angry demonstrators in Panama City this afternoon chased several legislators who had voted for the law that enables the government to dismiss workers, who, in its opinion, "harm democracy." Despite the wave of labor strikes, demonstrations, and serious disturbances in which a dozen people were wounded, the legislators today approved in their final debate the bill sent by President Guillermo Endara. After the voting, several lawmakers

hurriedly left the Legislative Assembly, located in midtown Panama, surrounded by police and chased by the demonstrators.

Riot policemen fired birdshot and tear gas to control the rock-throwing demonstrators, but it is not known if there are any wounded. A Public Force helicopter and three light airplanes flew over the site of the disturbances and followed the movement of the demonstrators.

The approved laws, which strikes down "labor privileges," began to be implemented before it was debated by the Legislative Assembly, when 400 public employees, including most of the leaders of the public sector's unions, were dismissed. Panamanian Vice President Guillermo Ford said the implementation of the law in advance was not unlawful because, when approved, the law would be "retroactive." Endara sent the bill to the legislature after accusing the leaders of public sector unions of participating in an alleged "coup attempt" organized by former Colonel Eduardo Herrera, who last week headed a rebellion by 100 policeman, which was later crushed by U.S. troops.

State employee labor leaders this afternoon announced new demonstrations for next week. Isaac Rodriguez, secretary general of the Union of Workers for the Institute of Hydraulic Resources and Electrification, who was dismissed on 11 December, announced that the workers affected by the government measure will stage a demonstration on 17 December with their children, as a sign that the workers do not plan to clash with the police.

Rodriguez, who was exiled in Spain in 1989 for opposing the previous military regime of General Manuel Antonio Noriega, said he regretted the incidents of the past few days, which he attributed to the nervousness of the riot police. Today, the Panamanian Catholic Church criticized the government and the unions for being "intransigent." Archbishop Marcos McGrath said the country is "deeply split" and democracy "is experiencing its most difficult moment."

Calidonia Area Returning to Normal

PA1412232390 Panama City Cadena Exitosa
in Spanish 2204 GMT 14 Dec 90

[Report by Hugo Enrique Famania]

[Text] The situation seems to be returning to normal in the area of Calidonia [near the Legislative Assembly], as cars and buses are back on the streets. Stores and shops have implemented tight security measures because owners and security guards have brought out weapons of various calibers. Some stores in this area are open.

We have observed that the number of clashes between the riot police and government employees, who were dismissed by the current government, were fewer than yesterday.

We also learned that two students from the National Institute were arrested for participating in the demonstrations. We have also learned that several National Police vehicles have begun stopping all the labor union leaders who are trying to stir up the movement again.

The labor union leaders and their followers are now heading to the University of Panama trying to obtain the support of the university students. The atmosphere is quite tense. Calidonia community trucks are already collecting garbage in the area.

U.S. Colonel Said Involved

PA1512023590 Panama City Radio KW Continente in Spanish 2222 GMT 14 Dec 90

[Report by Roberto Cubilla from the 5 May Square in Panama City—passages within quotation marks recorded]

[Text] Incidents continue at the 5 May Square. A few minutes ago, some persons were dispersed but regrouped on Peru Avenue, the Caledonia market and the Justo Arosemena Avenue. They are outside the Social Security building and around the 5 May Square. Twenty people were arrested. Unconfirmed reports indicate that over 10 people were injured by birdshot during the incidents which took place after the Legislative Assembly approved, in the third debate, bill No. 55, which orders the dismissal of public employees who participated in the 5 December strike. Here in the 5 May Square, traffic has come to a standstill. The riot police have taken up defense positions. More serious incidents can happen at any time. The conflict has not ended. We repeat: over 20 persons were arrested. According to unofficial reports, 10 people were injured in the incidents that began this afternoon.

A few minutes ago we noticed that the police are using the Legislative Palace as their center of operations to disperse the remaining demonstrators who are still on Central Avenue and 5 May Square. U.S. Colonel Steele, deputy chief of the Southern Command [title as heard], was there. We talked to him a few minutes ago. We could see that national police vans are arriving with the detainees at the Legislative Palace. Col. Steele and a Panamanian National Police major, named Gomez, are issuing police instructions from here. They were talking when we conducted the following interview.

[Cubillas] "We want to know why are you here in the Legislative Palace.

[Steele, speaking in Spanish] "I just came to talk to Gomez.

[Cubillas] "Is there a U.S. operation...

[Steele, interrupting] "The demonstration ended here. I am talking to...

[Cubillas] "Are the North Americans taking action because of the...

[Steele, interrupting] "None. I arrived one or two minutes ago. Thank you."

Following Col. Steele's remarks, a National Police van arrived with several detainees.

[Cubillas] "Major Gomez, how many people were arrested?

[Gomez] "I do not know."

Here we are with Mr. Irving Manzanares, chief of security of the Legislative Palace.

[Cubillas] "Why have those who have been arrested been brought to the Legislative Palace?" [Manzanares does not reply]

Manzanares also refused to comment on the matter. Col. Steele and Major Gomez, however, are giving out police instructions, as they are heading the operation. The 5 May Square remains closed as the demonstrations are still going on.

Wrap-Up of Incidents at Assembly

PA1512165690 Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 15 Dec 90 pp A-1, A-2

[Report by Hermes Sucre Serrano]

[Text] The single bang of 40 hands striking their seats, followed by the word "approved" yesterday marked what could be the beginning of the end for Panama's trade union movement. Following an extended session that was characterized by the strong opposition of the Democratic Revolutionary Party, the Legislative Assembly approved after its third debate the draft resolution that authorizes the government to fire public employees who take part in union activities.

Arguments by the seven opposition legislators to prevent approval of Law 55 were in vain. This law allows the president and decentralized institutions to fire public employees who attack democracy or take part in trade union activities. "We PRD legislators want noted for the record our efforts to spare the National Assembly the burden of having approved this fateful law, which will remain a stain in history," said Efraim Reyes Medina, alternate legislator for Mario Rognoni.

The legislators began their meeting at approximately 1000 under heavy police protection. There was apparent calm while security personnel kept the doors shut and did not allow the public to enter. After a five and one-half hour session, Legislator Arelis Remon de Martinelli moved that debate be declared over and that a vote take place immediately. The result: 40 votes in favor, seven against (PRD), and two abstentions.

Reaction was seen immediately as National Institute students began to hurl stones at riot police and groups of workers began to surround the legislative palace. The legislators left under heavy protection from riot police

and National Assembly security personnel. The legislators fled down Martyrs' Avenue, the same road where 22 Panamanians fell from U.S. bullets when a group of National Institute students entered the Canal Zone to hoist the Panamanian flag [on 9 January 1964].

After National Assembly President Alonso Fernandez declared the law approved, Legislator Balbina de Perinan (PRD) dared Legislator Marco Ameglio to show the workers the law. Shortly afterward, Ameglio departed down Martyrs' Avenue carrying a weapon. The PRD legislators shouted "Long Live Torrijos," while leaving.

After evacuating the 42 pro-government legislators, approximately 200 heavily armed riot police—as in Noriega's time—controlled the situation. The National Institute students and the workers who threw rocks were repelled with birdshot and tear gas. Skirmishes left over 20 people wounded and an undetermined number of people arrested.

President Guillermo Endara told the Associated Press that when the police dispersed the workers' march on 13 December, "there was no repression. I understand they had to establish order. [no end quotation mark as published] The president ordered approximately 400 public employees fired, a great number of them from IRHE [Institute of Hydraulic Resources and Electrification].

Isaac Rodriguez, secretary general of the IRHE labor union, one of the persons fired on 11 December, announced that the workers will march on 17 December, together with their children, as a sign that they do not plan to confront the police.

The Panamanian Catholic Church today criticized "the government and the unions for being intransigent." Archbishop Gregorio McGrath said that "democracy is going through its most difficult time."

The moment that yesterday's session was initiated, the PRD legislators implemented their strategy to convince the Assembly of the historic consequences that approval of a law that beheads the labor movement would have on the popular classes and on democracy.

Legislator Miguel Bush said that the bill—which is now law—violates constitutional rulings as well as international treaties signed by Panama. He said that it violates labor rights acknowledged by the International Labor Office. Bush, who is involved with the labor sector, said that the government has failed to understand that workers of the Christian Democratic Party [PDC], the Nationalist Liberal Republican Movement, the Authentic Liberal Party, and the Arnulfists are being hurt by this law.

Legislator Balbina de Perinan said that the new law represents an open attack on the rights of the workers and sets an infamous precedent against the labor movement. According to this legislator, the repressive attitude of the government is in contrast with election campaign

promises. She stated: "There cannot be peace and harmony when the dismissal of workers is authorized."

Legislator Gerardo Gonzalez said that the law gives the executive branch special powers that go against constitutional precepts. Legislator Alberto Aleman Boyd fruitlessly asked his colleagues to reconsider and not to provide a legal tool that would stain Panama's history. Elias Castillo was also enraged by the approval of the law, which, according to him, marks the beginning of the elimination of social achievements.

Alternate Legislator Efrain Reyes Medina said that the new legislation negates the law, democracy, and peace. He cautioned: "This will open the door to violence and to bloodshed, pain, and mourning in Panama."

Reyes Medina characterized those who approved what he called "a scoundrel's law" as "fascists."

Legislative Assembly sources have told this newspaper that the legislators who rejected the law are: Elias Castillo, Franklin Rivera, Balbina de Perinan, Efrain Reyes Medina, Gerardo Gonzalez, Alberto Aleman Boyd, and Miguel Bush. Two governing party alternate legislators abstained. The following legislators were not in the assembly session: Olimpo Saez, Gabriel Arosemena, Francisco Artola, Camilo Brenes, Carlos Carrizo, Roberto Garibaldo, Herman Gnaegi, Leo Gonzalez, Gustavo Guillen, Keith Holer, Tadeo Ibanez, Arturo Vallarino, and Alonso Villareal. Some of the governing party legislators who were present for the approval of the bill during the third debate are: Alonso Fernandez, Arnulfo Escalona Rios, Lucas Zarak, Gloria Moreno de Lopez, Maria Alfaro de Villageliu, Raquel Lanuza, Arelis de Martinelli, Alicia Franco, Gisela Chung, Delfin Pena, Eric Santamaria, Marco Ameglio, Vicente Caballero, Eliseo Alvarez, Luis Narvaez, Carlos Felipe Escobar, Carlos Arellano Lennox, Alfredo Ehlers, Ramon Aizpura, Alcibiades Alvarado, and Ricardo Colman.

The law approved yesterday is a public order law and will have retroactive effect as of 4 December 1990. The law will be in effect until 31 December 1991. A last-minute communique issued by the Presidency reports that President Guillermo Endara has signed the new law.

International Labor Protests Measure

PA1612235190 Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 16 Dec 90 p A-9

[Letter sent to President Guillermo Endara by Luis Anderson, secretary general of the Inter-American Regional Organization of Workers, and John Vanderveken, secretary general of the International Conference of Free Trade Union Organizations, signed in Tokyo on 7 December]

[Text] Mr. President:

At a meeting in Tokyo the International Conference of Free Trade Union Organizations (ICFTUO) was

informed that on 16 October the Panamanian Government received a list of 13 demands which, among other things, requested compliance with the laws that regulate the public sector and the abrogation of laws amending the Labor Code. Negotiations began and the government suspended them.

In view of the government's refusal to solve the problems presented by the workers and the lack of a serious dialogue by government officials at the ministerial level in charge of the negotiations, the labor movement of the public and private sectors was forced to call a great march on 4 December and a national strike on 5 December.

We have been informed that the government has drafted a bill authorizing the dismissal of government officials who participated in the strike and the leaders who organized it. The repressive actions that could be taken against private enterprise workers for the same reasons is also worrisome.

ICFTUO is concerned about the measures that are being planned, which violate the workers' recognized rights. The implementation of those measures would force ICFTUO to ask its affiliated organizations in industrialized countries to demand from their respective governments the implementation of economic and commercial sanctions against your country.

ICFTUO Executive Committee stresses the urgent need to stop threats, repression, and dismissals in the public sector and to immediately reinstate all the dismissed workers in their posts. ICFTUO supports Panamanian workers in their just struggle to demand respect for labor rights, job stability, the achievements made through collective agreements, and the right to disagree with government policies that affect the workers' interests.

[Signed] Luis Anderson, ORIT secretary general

John Vanderveken, ICFTUO secretary general

Archbishop on Options for Settling Labor Conflict

PA1512023890 Panama City Radio KW Continente
in Spanish 1720 GMT 14 Dec 90

[Statement issued by Archbishop Marcos Gregorio McGrath in Panama City; date not given—recorded; broadcast in progress]

[Text] presided over by me, outlines the problem's characteristics, the norms and values at stake, and the actions and efforts aimed at solving the problem of reconciliation. The two documents issue an appeal for a national consultation and dialogue to discuss the problems and seek a solution. We think that very little has been done in this regard. In other words, we think that things have been done without proper coordination and without a proper course of action [words indistinct] trust them.

Cable reports yesterday brought us information about Pope John Paul II's words of encouragement to the Panamanians when Leonel Santos, the new Panamanian ambassador to the Holy See, presented his credentials. The pope urged the Panamanians to build peace and he stated his deep concern about social justice. Every economic, political, business, labor, and government plan must strive for the achievement of social justice, a home for everyone, food for everyone, health for everyone, and education for everyone in Panama. We will solve these social problems if we tackle the problem together.

The pope's words are welcome at a time like this, when we face a conflict, above all between the national government and the labor sector. Their positions are inflexible, but we must understand that a democratic government struggles, and must struggle, against sedition and plots to oust it. The coup plans last week were very aggressive, and certain anti-government labor leaders seemed to worsen the political crisis. They have been charged with sedition, and the dismissal measures will be aimed against the workers [words indistinct] intends to approve.

The positions of the two sides are inflexible, and some of the labor union leaders have issued threatening words [words indistinct] democratic solution. Their stubbornness is a poor adviser and predicts more problems. We will all suffer the consequences—those who have been dismissed in particular, and the poor people in general.

Ford Says Government Not To Tolerate Anarchy

PA1512184390 Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish
15 Dec 90 p 1

[Report by Nubia Aparicio S.—quotation marks as published]

[Text] Second Vice President Guillermo Ford has stated that any person who violates the law, regardless of who that person might be, will be punished. The government, he added, will not permit anarchy.

Ford said that labor union people have forced the police to take action: "They broke into the Assembly by force and humiliated the sacred home of the parliament," Ford charged.

He wondered: "What do they want? To burn down the city and for us to remain with our arms crossed?" He added: "Anyone who violates the law will be punished. We have had enough false prophets who have dedicated themselves to destabilizing the country."

Ford recalled that approximately four weeks ago, "when we were holding a dialogue with a group of labor union leaders, I soon came to the conclusion that they had no intention of representing the true interests of the state employees."

In Ford's opinion, "those false prophets do not deserve to be labor leaders. Let us hope that the workers will

realize soon that those people have shadowy interests that neither we nor democracy can tolerate."

Ford said that "the events of 4 to 5 December and the violent way in which labor union people broke into the Legislative Assembly are inexcusable." He noted that the actions carried out by the workers in the Legislative Assembly and the way they have broken into that facility on two occasions have served to remove their masks." [no opening quotation marks as published]

Newspaper Says Government Has 'Second' Chance

PA1412191390 Panama City *CRITICA LIBRE*
in Spanish 14 Dec 90 p 4

[Unattributed editorial: "Yesterday, Riots....Today, a Telethon"]

[Text] While some citizens are working for the fatherland based on concepts, as Emerson would say, others are doing everything possible to sink the country's economy. Today the members of the 20-30 Active Club will initiate a grand telethon for Panama's destitute children. We are sure that the people will back this event, which will include shows with big local and foreign stars.

The 1990 Telethon begins today following a big promotional effort. It will be broadcast by a national radio and television network with the participation of positive people who really love this country. Although civic clubs consist of people with different political ideas, they are working together to contribute toward the success of the telethon, which will be headquartered in the Anayansi Theater, in the Atlapa Conventions Center.

Yesterday, Panama City witnessed what looked like a replay of the last few days of the Noriega regime and the days that followed the 20 December invasion. There were mobs in the streets and they set cars on fire, damaged state property, and demonstrated their aversion to the dispositions of the national government. Everything we said would happen if labor unions were not purged on time of discredited labor leaders has been happening. Time has proven us right. This is not the time, however, to criticize the people we cautioned about this. This is the time to contribute to stop the current situation, which is increasingly hurting the national economy and scaring away potential foreign investors.

The government has to think about the measures it has adopted and about the consequences of the poor political moves of government advisers. Because of the explosive situation that exists in Panama, the president of the country should cancel his trip to Puntarenas, Costa Rica, where he is to participate in a summit meeting of Central American chiefs of state. There are too many domestic problems, and regardless of commitments abroad, that trip should be postponed, because right now is not a good time for it.

At a moment when Pope John Paul II himself has expressed his concern about what is happening in

Panama and news agencies report on all the demonstrations of popular unrest taking place in this country, it is not advisable to go abroad. This is something the president should think about.

Some things are evident. There is a link between all the protests and rebellions. There is a plot that could explode on 15 or 20 December, on the anniversary of the collapse of the military tyranny. Unemployment has increased as a result of the dismissals, and unemployment is a dangerous time bomb. For this reason, the vacancies that have been created must be filled quickly with unemployed people who have been waiting for jobs. Let the state not save money by keeping these positions vacant. Let us give these jobs to people who have struggled for the new democracy. No nepotism either. This is an opportunity to benefit civic-minded people who struggled for this government, an opportunity for the government leaders to enhance their positions. This is their second opportunity.

U.S. Troops Allegedly Searching for Rebel Cells

PA1512173790 Panama City *EL DIARIO INDEPENDIENTE* in Spanish 15 Dec 90 p 7

[Report by Lionel Blaisdell]

[Text] An intelligence source, who asked not to be revealed, has told *EL DIARIO INDEPENDIENTE* that Southern Command troops have carried out a secret operation with the support of Panama's civil police to track down an alleged guerrilla cell in La Chorrera District, west of Panama City.

Raul Ossa, an area legislator, when asked, admitted that the in-depth operation had been carried out, but, in his opinion, there are no traces of any abnormality.

There were reports on 14 December that someone claiming to be Captain Eliecer Gaytan made statements by telephone to a local radio station, during which he hinted that a number of destabilizing actions would be carried out in Panama's major cities.

The alleged Eliecer Gaytan told Radio Ancon that the incidents will begin in La Chorrera this weekend, but he did not disclose how the actions will be conducted.

Legislator Ossa dismissed the rumors that have been spread by local radio stations but, nevertheless, he reiterated that a preventive alert is in effect in his hometown.

Chiriqui Prosecutor Denies Gaytan Made Calls

PA1512015090 Panama City *Radio Ancon* in Spanish
2210 GMT 14 Dec 90

[Report by Maribel del Carmen Saldana Ortiz]

[Text] We have here Emilio de Leon, who is the prosecutor of the 1st Higher Court in Chiriqui Province. He will give us his opinion regarding the calls we received from a man who identified himself as Eliecer Gaytan.

We could not record the entire call because we did not have enough time to do so. The caller told us about some movements in the area of Chorchá, and also about other movements in Santiago and Chorrera, among other places.

[Begin de Leon recording] As for the call in which Captain Asuncion Eliecer Gaytan is supposedly involved, I can tell you that I have investigated the situation along with three persons who are close to him, and I have been led to believe by these three persons that Gaytan is abroad. He is not here in Panama. These three persons have told me that Gaytan's name is being used because he has a household name, more so than the people who deserted and were involved in the adventure with Colonel Eduardo Herrera.

These three people, who know Gaytan very well, also told me that the people who were involved in the uprising along with Herrera are quite different than he is. The combination would be like mixing water and oil.

In addition, I have a National Police report in my hands, which was even confirmed by investigators from the Attorney General's Office. It informs me of a helicopter and land patrol operation in the area of Chorchá. The report includes the names of the policemen who inspected the area, including reconnaissance flights over Chorchá, Reyes Hill, Gato Hill, Bajo Bonito, Los Angeles, Gualaca, Soloy, and San Felix. They found nothing. The report also says they spoke to local residents, who said they had not seen anything out of the ordinary. I have reached the conclusion that the calls are part of a psychological war we are facing. We have to clarify the situation because otherwise the people will be confused and frightened. [end recording]

De Leon will talk about the phone call which you are about to hear.

[Begin recording] [Caller] ...for 22 minutes in Madrono, Mamoni.

[De Leon] I listened to that recording here in David last night with a person who was present at the National Police Headquarters in Ancon on 5 December. This person heard Captain Bernal very well, especially when he spoke to Col. Herrera. This same person, who also studied the military profession, identified the caller and told me it was Captain Bernal. It is as simple as that. [end recording]

Last night, at approximately 2100, while the street disorders caused by the dismissed government employees were taking place, we received another telephone call. It was recorded and was identified as being made by Mr. Asuncion Eliecer Gaytan. I would like to know your opinion. Does the voice belong to Mr. Eliecer Gaytan?

[Begin recording] [Caller] ...last name is De Gracia Marcucci. I lost it against the police force.

[De Leon] That was definitely not Gaytan's voice. It sounds like the voice you played for me earlier. I can, however, tell you the following: They are trying to imitate Gaytan's Argentine accent which he acquired after studying at the El Palomar Military Academy in Buenos Aires for six years. They are trying to imitate Gaytan, but it is a poor imitation of his voice and his accent. The thing that led me to the conclusion that it was not his voice, however, is that it is simply not his way of operating. Gaytan never announced what he was about to do. It leads me to the conclusion that it was not Gaytan's voice. The caller must come from the same group of deserters who were linked to Col. Eduardo Herrera, especially Captain Bernal, who was identified yesterday by a specialist in the matter. [end recording]

Bernal Said To Feign Being Gaytan

PA1512172290 Panama City EL DIARIO
INDEPENDIENTE in Spanish 15 Dec 90 p 4

[From the "Off The Record" column]

[Text] It has been established through electronic means that the person who telephoned Ramon Jimenez, at Radio Ancon, claiming to be [former Major] Asuncion Gaitan is none else than [former Captain] Jorge Bernal.

Batista Questions Existence of Rebel Movements

PA1512020390 Panama City Circuito RPC Television
in Spanish 2348 GMT 14 Dec 90

[Text] A man who identified himself as Captain Asuncion Eliecer Gaytan phoned the radio station Radio Ancon at approximately 1800 last night. This is the third phone call of this type in the past three days, but it has been impossible to confirm the caller's authenticity. Here is a recording of the phone call.

[Begin recording] [Gaytan] This is Captain Gaytan, who operates in Madrono and Cerro Azul. I lost (?Chiriqui-born) De Gracia Marcucci fighting the police forces and the U.S. soldiers, who were wearing the same uniforms as the police forces. I have three men interned in a clandestine hospital somewhere in the province. I am calling from Las Cumbres.

I know about everything that is happening in the city. There are bonfires, shots, and wounded people. The workers were attacked for defending their rights. We will fight to the end. [Words indistinct] tell Vice Presidential Minister Batista that there are guerrillas and that the police can come for us. We will have four more guerrilla groups operating by (?Monday). We will fight to the end. I have one of the best men. He is from Chiriqui and is named Captain Nino. He is the best man fighting against the Public Force in Madrono, Cerro Azul, Carti, and Morti. I am awaiting reinforcements from the Colombian National Liberation Front [FNL] [as heard]. [end recording]

Vice Presidential Minister Miguel Batista discounted all possibilities of the presence of rebel movements in our country.

[Begin Batista recording] The province of Chiriqui was mentioned at the beginning. Several searches were conducted both on ground and from the air, but no guerrillas were found. In addition, there have been no clashes. Maybe they are getting used to the idea or else they are hunting. There is no evidence so far confirming the existence of rebels. [end recording]

Weapons Confiscated in Veraguas Province

PA1512184290 Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish
15 Dec 90 p 22A

[Text] According to Ebrahim Asvat, director of the Public Force, a shipment of weapons was confiscated on the night of 12 December by members of the National Police in Santiago District, Veraguas Province.

The reports adds that the confiscated weapons consisted of 900 small .38-caliber handguns, shotguns, and nine-mm pistols.

Drug Dealers Reportedly Try To Buy Rifles

PA1512004890 Panama City CRITICA LIBRE
in Spanish 12 Dec 90 p 21

[Report by Luis Alberto Gaitan V.]

[Text] According to information received by this correspondent, the Medellin Cartel recently tried to buy 25,000 balboas worth of weapons in Chiriqui Province.

CRITICA LIBRE has learned that two Colombian nationals were arrested by the Attorney General's Office in connection with this case. Mr. Samuel Chacon, an official with the Fourth Circuit Court, participated in the arrest which is being investigated in the Chiriqui highlands.

We were also told that the Colombians had been released "on bail," but that they had "disappeared" (fled) without leaving any traces.

In the highlands, eight individuals—who have already been identified—are dealing in arms. Everything suggests that the Colombians tried to pose as "businessmen" when they were arrested.

Contraband activities as well as the transshipment of drugs and high-caliber weapons are taking place along the Panama-Costa Rica border area. Apparently, the Colombians belong to the armed branch of the cartels. The AK-47's are part of a shipment the former FDP [Panama Defense Forces] abandoned in the highlands. There were three containers that transported thousands of rifles. Two of the containers have disappeared, and there are no clues as to where they are.

Journalists' Union Denounces Persecution

PA1512143490 Panama City EL SIGLO in Spanish
11 Dec 90 p 38

[Report by Eric Arce]

[Text] Euclides Fuentes Arroyo, the acting secretary general of the Journalists' Union of Panama, has told EL SIGLO: "In view of the situation surrounding journalist Marshall McKleen and because other colleagues have been summoned by the Attorney General's Office for accompanying Eduardo Herrera in his attempt to reach the Legislative Assembly on 5 December, we have denounced the persecution of journalists that is taking place in this country. McKleen was accused of armed robbery as soon as he claimed to have seen a U.S. soldier fire at a Panamanian policeman. Journalists are being persecuted for doing their jobs by publishing hard facts that are unfavorable to the regime, thus exposing all of this regime's negative aspects and mistakes and generating rejection from the people."

The union leader said that "journalists, in carrying out their duties, report these facts and the public reacts against those who have been misleading the country since last December. This, instead of laying the bases for real democracy, as they so often claim, results in repression, and what is worse, the repression comes not just from the Panamanian Government; the regime has even asked the United States to intervene. Therefore, we find ourselves in an embarrassing situation in the eyes of the world. We do not know if this is truly a sovereign country, a U.S. protectorate, or a colony. Cesar Quintero accurately pointed out that Panama is being compared to Puerto Rico, which has a defined status as not a state, not free, and not associated."

With regard to the presence of U.S. troops at El Renacer Prison, the leader of the Journalists' Union of Panama stated: "Because this regime asked for U.S. intervention and has practically turned itself over to the U.S. Government with its hands and feet bound, it is not unusual for U.S. soldiers to be guarding El Renacer Prison. Nor is it unusual that, as some reporter friends who are members of this union have told me, the garrisons in the country's interior have already been reoccupied by U.S. troops." Fuentes also noted: "One year after the invasion, this regime, imposed by Fort Clayton, is perfecting and justifying the occupation through statements by its main spokesmen, who have claimed that they requested the intervention of the U.S. Army. Therefore, it is an invasion, an occupation, and we can say that, tactically, Panama has been turned into a protectorate without the people being consulted. We cannot talk about democracy when the people have not been consulted. We have no democracy here, we have a U.S. military dictatorship here. This means that the regime has allowed the U.S. Government to replace the Panamanian military boot, preferring the U.S. military boot, as Foreign Minister Linares himself said last week in public statements. Linares said that the lesser evil was the U.S. military

boot. He does not like the Panamanian military boot at all, and he is perfectly content to live under the U.S. military boot."

Legislator Views Relations With Eastern Europe

PA1512185390 Panama City EL DIARIO
INDEPENDIENTE in Spanish 12 Dec 90 pp 16, 17

[Interview with Legislator Olimpo Saez, chairman of the Legislative Assembly's Foreign Relations Commission, by Luis Vejarano in Panama City—date not given]

[Text] EL DIARIO INDEPENDIENTE has been told that Dr. Ricardo Arias Calderon, first vice president and government and justice minister, said during his recent visit to Washington that the Panamanian Government is about to establish diplomatic relations with Eastern European countries. He added that, a few days ago, a high-level Soviet delegation paid an official visit to Panama, which was an opportunity for initial contacts.

The visit is considered an historic event because it is the first time that the Panamanian Government has received an official delegation of Supreme Soviet parliamentarians at the highest diplomatic levels.

Legislator Olimpo Saez spoke of the Legislative Assembly president's political resolve to have a Panamanian parliamentary delegation visit the USSR as soon as possible, to follow up on the Soviet visit. Saez said that this rapprochement will be positive for the Panamanian people and that it will lead to the fulfillment of Bolivar's ideals; Bolivar said that Panama would become to the world what the isthmus of Corinth was for the Greeks.

Legislator Saez said, during this exclusive interview for EL DIARIO INDEPENDIENTE that he believes, regarding the government and business sector, that the official visit by the Supreme Soviet parliamentarians has been very positive, and that within a short period of time the establishment of diplomatic and commercial relations between Panama and the USSR will be a reality.

Saez emphatically pointed out that this visit was of great significance to Panama, because it showed that Panama's political legitimacy has been acknowledged by one of the world's great powers. It also constitutes the USSR's recognition of the Panamanian Legislative Assembly's structure, and of President Endara. This recognition has been given despite the screams of local

and foreign communists, who are still striving to lay diplomatic siege on Endara's government.

He said that this rapprochement also anticipates that the Panama Canal will be a canal for peace, because with the presence of the USSR, United States, powerful European countries, and Japan, we will have true neutrality, and we will be able to tell the entire world that the naval strip is open to every country of the world, thereby guaranteeing that Panama will not require an army for its defense. To this effect Saez said that a Soviet diplomatic presence will strengthen the spirit of peace that the Panamanians have always proclaimed regarding the canal.

When asked about the possibility of diplomatic ties between the countries, Legislator Saez said that he was drafting a report at the request of President Guillermo Endara on the results of the visit. He noted that the National Legislative Assembly can contribute toward expediting turning diplomatic and trade relations with the Soviet Union into a reality for the benefit of countries like ours, that believe in peace, disarmament, and the fraternal solidarity of all people and all human beings.

To conclude, Legislator Saez said that he believed that steps will soon be taken to consolidate relations with the Soviet Union, which he described as necessary and urgent, especially at this time in Panama's history.

Saez also commented on the frankness with which the members of the distinguished visiting delegation explained to top-ranking Panamanian officials the difficulties the USSR is experiencing with perestroika. The visitors reported that vast sectors of society are experiencing despair and frustration, because some feel the new system is going too fast, others consider it too slow, and others think it must be stopped altogether because it entails the destruction of the USSR. The Soviet visitors indicated, however, that perestroika gathers the opinions of all sectors and that there is no turning back.

Later Saez remarked that the USSR has realized that it cannot lag behind, and that is why the Supreme Soviet has enacted laws on human rights and amended the Constitution to guarantee the autonomy of each republic to avoid impositions on the republics that they may have to reject, to guarantee cordial relations with the church, and to guarantee the existence of democratic liberal parties to debate ideas. Equally important is the fact that the means are being established to expand the Soviet market to sell its products abroad, and, if possible, to satisfy its market of 280 million people with Latin American products.

Argentina**Menem, Lacalle Discuss GATT, Bush Visit***PY1512215090 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS**ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1734 GMT 15 Dec 90*

[Excerpts] Buenos Aires, 15 Dec (NA)—President Carlos Menem today discarded implementation of a tax on tourism and confirmed that "the possibility of making an advance income tax payment is being studied." Menem made these announcements during a joint news conference at Olivos residence with Uruguayan President Luis Lacalle, who arrived at noon today on an unofficial visit in response to a visit Menem made to Uruguay two months ago.

After an approximately 40-minute meeting, the two presidents agreed on the initiative proposed by the Uruguayan representatives at the OAS for a debate on the adverse situation within GATT in view of the EEC's protectionist measures and its affect on the Latin American countries.

Lacalle said: "Uruguay proposed yesterday that the OAS include the GATT issue in its agenda so that OAS members can become aware of the serious harm the EEC is inflicting on the region's interests. President Menem thought this was a good idea." [passage omitted]

On the meeting with Menem in Olivos residence, Lacalle explained: "The most important issue was the signing of the integration treaty and its fulfillment in various stages."

He added: "Integration is not a trivial matter. There is enough maturity in the region to understand that hasty or superficial steps cannot be taken because of the importance of this issue."

He said: "There is a struggle for the legitimate internal interests of each country, but collective interests multiply the markets' strength." [passage omitted]

As for U.S. President George Bush's visit to Uruguay and Argentina, Lacalle said: "Bush must have gotten the impression that there is a great change in this part of the world because we are not asking for aid to be spent abroad, but to be spent for our development."

Lacalle pointed out: "The example of President Menem and his courage in making changes is something Uruguayans should keep in mind because we are following the same line of thinking."

Lacalle recalled that Bush "praised Menem for facing a temporary but difficult situation. Menem did not hesitate to enforce his constitutional powers."

He added: "The visit gave President Bush an accurate vision of the type of leaders in the countries of the River Plate basin, and this will probably reaffirm the Americas Initiative."

As for the obstacle in integration negotiations created by Uruguay's long list of protected products, Lacalle said there is no such obstacle, but there is "a reasonable, frank discussion of issues of national interest."

In this regard Lacalle said: "President Menem would not be fulfilling his constitutional obligations if he did not consider Argentine interests before others, and I would not be fulfilling my obligations if I did not defend Uruguayan interests."

He added: "There are problems and proposals—otherwise it would not be a negotiation, but a preestablished agreement. Argentina and Brazil should have a joint understanding of the situation in Paraguay and Uruguay."

Asked if Uruguay would send troops to the Persian Gulf, Lacalle emphatically said, "No."

Menem and Lacalle also agreed "to take the necessary steps" to begin a study, by early next year, of construction of a gas pipeline between Argentina and Uruguay. They also agreed on the need to build a bridge over the Plata River to link Buenos Aires with Colonia.

Warships in Gulf To Return at End of Jan*PY1412202590 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES**HERALD in English 14 Dec 90 p 1*

[Text] (DYN-NA)—The two Argentine warships participating in the United Nations embargo against Iraq will be called back at the end of January. Foreign Minister Domingo Cavallo announced yesterday.

The destroyer *Almirante Brown* and the corvette *Spiro* will not be replaced without congressional approval, the minister told a special session of the Senate.

Cavallo briefed the senators on the draft law for Argentine participation in an eventual war in the Persian Gulf, which will be submitted for approval by President Carlos Menem.

Funds totaling 15 million dollars for the Argentine effort will soon be deposited in a New York bank account by the Kuwaiti government-in-exile, Cavallo announced yesterday.

But the Argentine warships will not participate in actual fighting, Cavallo said. They will "keep the waterways open, lending logistical support eventually required by the nations that go to war with Iraq."

Editorial Analyzes Decision*PY1612203090 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES**HERALD in English 15 Dec 90 p 10*

[Editorial: "Backing Out?"]

[Text] The decision of Foreign Minister Domingo Cavallo to withdraw the two Argentine warships in the Gulf from the zone by the end of January can be read two

ways. On the one hand, as Cavallo says, the recall of the two warships for routine maintenance and change of crew had always been programmed ever since the decision to support the blockade was taken. Next month is precisely when the ultimatum to Saddam Husayn to pull out of Kuwait is scheduled to expire so that the decision to leave further steps to Congress is in perfect accordance with the Constitution, which gives the legislative branch the right to "authorize the executive power to declare war or make peace" (Article 67, Section 21). Already at the end of last week the government sent a bill to Congress asking it to allow Argentine naval forces in the Gulf to carry out "appropriate measures of support" in the line with United Nations Security Council Resolution 678, which requests UN members to use any means necessary including force to obtain the Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait.

Yet at the same time Cavallo's announcements can be read as a decision to pass the buck to a Congress by no means certain to rubberstamp military intervention because President Carlos Menem's government has started to have cold feet about an active role in the Gulf for a variety of reasons. Firstly, it has so far cost around 15 million dollars when on the same day Cavallo announced the return of the ships, Naval Chief-of-Staff Jorge Ferrer complained about a "budgetary crisis" in his force. Secondly, Argentina's initiative has still not been followed by any other South American country so that the government is starting to feel out of step with a continent with which it is trying to integrate. Thirdly, the importance of Argentina's international role has yet to be appreciated by the general public according to opinion polls which often show less than a third in support. Finally, cynics might say that now United States President George Bush has come and praised Menem for his Gulf force and left again, there is no further need for an Argentine presence in the Gulf.

In fact, there is considerable truth in both readings of the situation. While there is no particular evidence that the government is carrying out a major change of tack, it has left itself open to the suspicion of trimming—of trying to have it both ways. After having won international applause for his original commitment, Menem seems to be watering it down with a view to domestic opinion on the eve of an election year instead of launching a campaign to educate a reluctant public as to the vital issues at stake in the Gulf. While this is no doubt good politics, Menem is risking all plaudits won because the kind of commitment he undertook four months ago must be carried all the way if it is to be worth anything at all.

Destroyer, Corvette Scheduled To Leave for Gulf

PY1612202490 Buenos Aires *BUENOS AIRES HERALD* in English 15 Dec 90 p 11

[From the "Argentina in Brief" column]

[Text] (NA)—The destroyer La Argentina and the corvette Rosales will leave for the Persian Gulf in mid-January to replace the destroyer Almirante Brown and

the corvette Spiro currently in the area. The two warships in the Gulf left on September 25 after President Carlos Menem decided Argentina should participate in the United Nations economic blockade against Iraq. The La Argentina is a missile destroyer displacing 3,600 tonnes, carries a crew of 200 and will be under the command of Captain Miguel Angel Goris. The Rosales displaces 140 tonnes, carries a crew of 100 and will be under the command of Captain Hector Tebaldi.

'Strict Preventive Imprisonment' for Seineldin

PY1512191490 Buenos Aires *TELAM* in Spanish 1748 GMT 15 Dec 90

[Text] Buenos Aires, 15 Dec (TELAM)—The Armed Forces Supreme Council has ordered strict preventive imprisonment for Colonel Mohamed Ali Seineldin, who finished testifying at 1530 today on his responsibility in the 3 December Painted Faces rebellion.

This was reported by Colonel Felix Isla Rodriguez, Armed Forces Supreme Council spokesman, who added that Seineldin's incommunicado status has been lifted. He said Seineldin will be transferred to Penitentiary Unit No. 16, where he will remain.

Deputy Manzano Reportedly Receives Death Threats

PY1412171690 Buenos Aires *Domestic Service* in Spanish 1500 GMT 14 Dec 90

[Text] Jose Luis Manzano, the Justicialist Party bloc leader in the Chamber of Deputies, has reported that he has received repeated death threats because of his position of support for President Menem's decision to confront the Painted Faces.

Manzano explained that over the past two days he has received frequent death-threat calls addressed to him and to other government officials who have supported President Menem's inflexible position not to negotiate with the rebels.

Manzano added that the calls are intimidating because in addition to the death threats, they said that they will begin a smear campaign against some government members, although they did not mention names.

We are going to kill you. In the end we are going to win, or we are going to defame you. These were two of the sentences heard over the phone, Manzano said. He added that today he will visit Prosecutor Luis Moreno Ocampo to file the appropriate statement.

Bonnet To Carry Out Death Sentences if Ordered

PY1512134090 Buenos Aires *NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS* in Spanish 0417 GMT 15 Dec 90

[Text] Buenos Aires, 14 Dec (NA)—Army Chief of Staff Martin Bonnet did not hesitate today to point out that if any participant in the 3 December military uprising is sentenced to death, he will "carry out the order."

Bonnet said the Army chief will carry out any order given by the appropriate court, because at that time he will not be concerned with "the opinion of one man but rather of the military." The Army chief made these remarks following the 1990 commencement ceremony in which NCO's from the Sargento Cabral School received their diplomas.

Bonnet said the rebellion was a "painful uprising and a criminal action that does not by any means represent the attitudes of the overwhelming majority of Army NCO's." "It is a very small group that damaged not only the Army as an institution but also the nation," he emphasized.

In contrast to this group, Bonnet said that at this moment the rest of the Army "is united, and they understand perfectly the damage caused by the rebels."

Asked whether Colonel Mohamed Ali Seineldin, retired, will be transferred from Buenos Aires, he said: "The decision will be made by the Armed Forces Supreme Council." He declined, however, to give his opinion on whether the arrested officers should be tried by a civilian or military court.

Asked by one reporter what will happen to the families of the arrested officers, Bonnet carefully answered that "it is an old Army tradition to never abandon the families."

Menem Discusses Cabinet Support for Pardons

PY1512145690 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS
ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1032 GMT 15 Dec 90

[Excerpt] Mar del Plata, 15 Dec (NA)—President Carlos Menem has implied that members of his cabinet should resign if they do not agree with the pardons that will be issued for members of the military dictatorship and Montoneros leader Mario Firmenich before the end of the year.

Asked what his cabinet members thought about the controversial pardons, Menem said: "If they do not resign, that shows that they agree with it."

During a news conference at the Hermitage Hotel yesterday, Menem reasserted that the 3 December Painted Faces rebellion was "a foolish adventure carried out by a group of criminals." [passage omitted]

Official Lists Those To Be Pardoned

PY1512181090 Buenos Aires Domestic Service
in Spanish 1708 GMT 15 Dec 90

[Excerpt] Buenos Aires, 15 Dec (NA)—Raul Granillo Ocampo, presidential secretary for legal and technical affairs, today confirmed that five former military men and three civilians will benefit from the upcoming presidential pardon, but he did not rule out the chance that the list could be changed.

Granillo Ocampo reported that the following people will be pardoned: former Commanders Jorge Rafael Videla,

Emilio Massera, and Roberto Viola; former Generals Ramon Camps and Pablo Ovidio Riccheri; and civilians Mario Firmenich, Norma Kennedy, and Duilio Brunella.

Asked whether the pardon will also benefit Carlos Guillermo Suarez Mason, he said: "This subject has not yet been definitively decided, but initial comments on the matter seem to be negative." He noted, however, that the final decision will be made by President Carlos Menem.

Sources close to President Menem yesterday confirmed to this news agency that Suarez Mason will be on the list of people pardoned by the president. [passage omitted]

Menem Losses in Recent Elections Cited

PY1612204290 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES
HERALD in English 16 Dec 90 p 3

[From the "Politics & Labour" column by Michael Soltys: "Menem Loses Small After Winning Big"]

[Excerpt] Losing the battles while winning the war is a common enough phenomenon in military history but last week it became political reality in Argentina. President Carlos Menem's dramatic triumph over the carapintadas [Painted Faces] at the beginning of the month has in no way ended a long run of poor electoral results, which dates back at least until August 5 and the defeat of the Buenos Aires constitutional reforms (backed by Menem at the time although he chose to forget his support immediately afterwards). Menem put a brave face on the reverses in Tierra del Fuego, Entre Rios and the Federal Capital, saying that the Peronists would win almost everything next year, but the combination of negative results does make the talk at the end of the week about bringing ahead elections seem rather strange.

The contrast between Menem's overwhelming victory and the string of setbacks in minor skirmishes is difficult to understand—in some ways comparable to Winston Churchill's defeat in 1945 just after V-Day in the Second World War. Perhaps the only explanation for both phenomena is that the big issues are not necessarily the only issues or even the most important ones for most people—a number of petty issues at both national and provincial level weighed more heavily than the carapintadas.

Menem has suffered more bad results than most people realize in recent months because almost all the elections have been extremely local. Constituent Assembly elections in Tucuman and Formosa—won respectively by General Antonio Bussi's Republican Force and Peronist Governor Vicente Joga, who has had his differences with Menem supporters—are two early examples (incidentally, impeachment proceedings against Tucuman Governor Jose Domato started last week). Then at the end of last month the Peronist frontrunner lost the Canada de Gomez mayoral elections in Santa Fe to the locally strong Progressive Democrats, largely because the Radicals pulled out, thus polarizing the electorate. The next weekend (December 2) the Mendoza Peronists voted for

provincial economy minister Rodolfo Gabrielli, the crown prince of Mendoza Governor Jose Octavio Bordón, against a list backed by three of Menem's main operators: Presidential Chief-of-Staff Eduardo Bauza, Public Works Minister Roberto Dromi and Lower House Majority Leader Jose Luis Manzano (all of whom come from Mendoza). Gabrielli won by a convincing margin of 56 to 40 percent.

Bad as this run was, it escalated considerably at the start of the week with at least four setbacks for Menem supporters. On Saturday Vice-President Eduardo Duhalde became Buenos Aires Justicialist Party chairman with the backing of Buenos Aires Governor Antonio Cafiero and the opposition of the Menem ultraloyalists in proceedings marred by violence—supporters of Luis Barrionuevo clashed with police. The next day the Entre Rios Peronist primaries took a very similar turn to Mendoza—defeat for Menem's favourite, Deputy Augusto Alasino, against Parana Mayor Mario Moine, who was supported by local governor Pedro Busti, a staunch ally of Cafiero. Moine took 60 percent of the vote to 37 percent for Alasino and three percent for Group of Eight leftwinger Jose "Conde" Ramos.

Both these developments were within the family but on Sunday the Peronists lost as a whole in the Tierra del Fuego constituent assembly elections. They received 20 percent of the vote and five of the 19 delegates while the Tierra del Fuego Popular Movement had an overall majority of 11 delegates on the basis of 47 percent of the vote. The Radicals had a pathetic 10 percent and two delegates while the Authentic Socialists picked up the last delegate. This fresh blow to the Peronists comes hard on the ouster of both their Patagonian governors in Santa Cruz and Chubut during this dying year—Tierra del Fuego Governor Martin Torres is not much better off. The collapse of the local electronics industry through the Menem government's elimination of all regional subsidy policies hurt the Peronists both directly and indirectly—both because it aroused local anger over hard times and because most of the jobless workers now moving elsewhere had come south from other provinces and were mostly major-party voters whereas long-standing residents are more likely to vote for the Tierra del Fuego Popular Movement.

The next shock came the following day when the pro-Alfonsín Radical Ricardo Marcos became City Council chairman with the support of Peronist Juan Carlos Suardi, who was staunchly pro-Menem at the time when City Mayor Carlos Grosso defined himself as a Renewal Peronist. Almost everybody had been certain Peronist chairman Jorge Arguello would be re-elected but his confidence was unjustified—the situation in the City Council was so finely poised that both the potential supporters of Arguello (13 Justicialists, 12 Centre Alliance councillors and three Intransigents) and of Marcos (24 Radicals and four dissident Peronists) totalled 28 out of the 60 councillors. As it was, the vote went 28 to 26 for Marcos. Grosso blamed Barrionuevo for the result.

These minor elections all around the country are linked by certain common features—setbacks for the Peronists in multiparty polls, defeat for Menem supporters in primaries and local factors proving paramount.

There were rumors last week that the Peronists and liberals would join forces. In point of fact, relations between the two are very delicate at the moment. The Democratic Centre Union (UCeDe) is unhappy about its identity as a result of its alliance with the government and certain economic policies such as high tax levels and interest rates, which they see as central to keeping the dollar down with adverse results for the economy—a low dollar hits exporters while high interest rates deprive local market producers of credit. They would thus like to see lower statutory reserve requirements to lower interest rates. Last month UCeDe leader Alvaro Alsogaray criticized Economy Minister Antonio Erman Gonzalez over interest rates, the dollar and a recessive programme.

UCeDe confidence has also been eroded by bad results in the 13 Buenos Aires University student centres in recent weeks. The liberal student group UPAU [Union for the Opening of the University] lost the Law School to the Radical Franja Morada and only held the Engineering Faculty by three votes, losing the prized Economics Faculty by 30 to 55 percent. All in all, Franja Morada took eight of the 13 centres with engineering and veterinary science going to UPAU, agronomy to the independents, philosophy to the Trotskyists and exact sciences to the socialists. A low turnout and the disappearance of the left (presumably into Franja Morada) were important factors in elections which have left the liberals looking much less like the party of future generations. [passage omitted]

Article Examines Objectives of Liberation Party

PY1612021290 Buenos Aires LA PRENSA in Spanish
30 Nov 90 pp 1, 7

[Report by Daniel Lupa]

[Excerpt] "Our party maintains that the armed struggle is a definite way to defeat the enemy's power and to build a new order of the people."

This concise declaration is not taken from *Mein Kampf*, or a Leninist slogan, or a Fidel Castro speech, but from page 14 of a typical pamphlet published by the so-called "Liberation Party (Marxist-Leninist)" to disseminate the "political resolution" of its fifth national congress held under the slogan—hardly mistaken—"If hunger, unemployment, and giving in are law, rebellion is justice." The pamphlet explains basic guidelines and instructions that go back to leftist activities at the beginning of the 1970's, which they inaugurated with the murder of Pedro Eugenio Aramburu and concluded with the episode of the Armed Forces' struggle—conducted by commanders who are still in prison together with other high-ranking military officers—to defeat terrorists who carried out the same thing they now proclaim in this resolution.

The "Liberation Party (Marxist-Leninist)" has been known to exist for three years, but it grew more quickly after the "MTP" [Movement of All for the Fatherland] attack against the 3rd Infantry Regiment in La Tablada, Buenos Aires Province. The name of this party has been closely connected with several demonstrations and marches staged by several leftist groups of the self-styled Mothers and Grandmothers of Plaza de Mayo [as published]; it has also been linked with the much-publicized "march of resistance" that the Mothers and Grandmothers of Plaza de Mayo are organizing for 5 and 6 December—strangely coinciding with U.S. President George Bush's visit to Argentina.

The document is valid since it outlines the organization's objectives and purposes. The congress that approved these instructions and a plan of action took place between last February and May, when a summary of the document was published on 17 May in the party's official publication, VENCEREMOS [We Will Win], as stated in the pamphlet.

Strategies and Objectives

The explanation with which this analysis begins is included in the final chapter and compendium of the pamphlet under the title: "The Rebellion Is Fair." It is preceded by the four immediate objectives proposed by the party: "Construction of a solid revolutionary party; construction of a national and social liberation front; revolutionary leaderships at the head of mass organizations; and construction of a people's liberation army" (the boldface is ours).

If there is any doubt about the scope of these aims, which are not casual assertions disconnected from the rest of the assertions, one can interpret: "The insurrectional uprising of urban masses against reactionary power is the essence of our project."

It adds: "**Both the political and military** (the boldface is ours) struggles will be long in Argentina and will begin in urban areas. The revolutionary forces will develop from **weak to strong and their actions will range from small to great**" (boldface in the original).

The development of "from small to great" is explained in the following definition: "Our policy aims to reproduce and generalize social outbursts. The objective of the struggle is political power," which will be attained through gradual and intermediate actions to include: "Generating **stable** organizations with revolutionary perspectives to oppose the government, and guaranteeing the **sustenance of those forms of power** by exercising **self defense and other forms** of actions with which the people and the revolutionary vanguard may **dispute the reactionary power** the monopoly of violence" (the boldface is ours). The document does not clarify what those "other forms" are, or what "monopoly of violence" means.

On page 15 it holds, however, that the FRAL [Broad Front For Liberation] or United Left "has not responded positively during the peaks of social conflict because it

tends to avoid the paths of revolutionary struggle." This is an interesting comment on methods, but not on objectives. [passage omitted]

Presidential Adviser Criticizes Bank Policy

PY1612023490 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS
ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1155 GMT 9 Dec 90

[Text] Buenos Aires, 9 Dec (NA)—Presidential Adviser Alvaro Alsogaray has predicted that "the balance of payments may face a crisis by mid-1991 if the low exchange rate is not corrected."

Alsogaray, who is a liberal deputy, said: "The relative prices could register an imbalance, considering that the dollar exchange rate has stabilized while the value of salaries and goods and services continues to increase."

He said: "This situation has worsened because of the interest rate, which has forced people to save in australs at a fixed rate to make a profit that is not possible anywhere else."

Alsogaray criticized the Central Bank's monetary policy because "it has had a negative influence on the market where foreign currencies are purchased by issuing paper money" to maintain the U.S. currency's low level.

He said: "It is evident that the issuance of money currently stands at 10 to 12 percent per month when this percentage would not pass 0.5 or 0.6 percent in any other country."

He added that the issuance of money is one of the reasons the government "has been unable to control inflation." He then called for "cutting the Gordian knot of the imbalance in the relative prices."

In statements to Radio Mitre, Alsogaray voiced his pleasure over the reorganization within the Armed Forces, but he pointed out that "there are problems between officer and NCO cadres."

In this regard, Alsogaray, founder of the UCD [Democratic Centrist Union] urged the executive branch "to consolidate the cadres by returning their military spirit to form a united armed forces."

Proposals on Halting Corruption To Be Presented

PY1512222690 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS
ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1725 GMT 14 Dec 90

[Text] Buenos Aires, 14 Dec (NA)—Argentine Vice President Eduardo Duhalde, in his role as head of the Commission for the Ethical Recovery of Society and the State, will present 12 proposals on definitively eradicating corruption to President Carlos Menem on 19 December.

The recommendations that the president will receive have emerged from the work of members of the commission, which was specially created some time ago at the order of the chief of state.

The ceremony when Duhalde will give the working group's conclusions to Menem will take place on Wednesday, 19 December, at 1000.

The proposals the president will receive on fully eradicating corruption once and for all are:

1. Bill on the illegal enrichment of officials (proposed by Ricardo Levene (Jr.) and Guillermo Borda).
2. Bill on production and employment (Julio Olivera).
3. Bill on moral and economic incompatibility (Alberto Constantini).
4. Bill on entrepreneurial cooperation contracts (Alberto Gonzalez Arzac).
5. Bill on control of private contributions to political parties (Fernando de la Rúa).
6. Bill on impeachment proceedings against public officials (Julio Olivera).
7. Action recommended against potential narcoterrorist corruption (General Heriberto Auel and Guillermo Borda).
8. Action recommended for the protection of public morale as a constitutional responsibility of the state (Pedro Frias and Guillermo Borda).
9. Action and political decision against corruption (Fernando de la Rúa).
10. Educational program on corruption in public and private sectors (Gustavo Beliz).
11. Contributions for the general bill on education (Marcelo Zapiola).
12. To control fulfillment of Decree 1638-89 on sworn declaration of assets (Horacio Pacheco).

Construction Projects Accord Signed With Soviets

PY1612231690 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish
1820 GMT 12 Dec 90

[Text] Buenos Aires, 12 Dec (TELAM)—At noon today Interior Minister Julio Mera Figueroa presided over the signing of a letter of intent between the Bermejo River Regional Commission and the Soviet state enterprise "Technopromexport" for the construction of projects and research dams on the Iruya River in Salta.

Studies of the projects were made by technicians from the Water and Power Company and the Soviet state enterprise, which has the technology for the type of controlled demolitions necessary to build this special dam with greater speed and at a lower cost.

The project also contemplates the transfer of that technology to the Bermejo River Commission for the construction of similar projects all along the basin, including joint undertakings with Bolivia.

The Iruya River, main tributary of the Bermejo River, carries the most sediment when it joins the Paraguay-Parana system to the Plata River. Technicians believe that, beginning with the projects and dams to be built on the Iruya River, the technical and economic feasibility of water projects downstream on the Bermejo River will improve considerably.

Among other projects, it will help reduce the impact of floods, especially in Formosa, and improve the possibility of providing fresh water for towns, irrigation, cattle grazing, energy generating enterprises, and navigation.

Present at the ceremony at the Interior Ministry Hall of Shields were Salta Governor Hernan Cornejo and Soviet Ambassador Vladimir Nikitin and national and provincial legislators.

Uruguay's Lacalle Arrives for Private Visit

PY1512144690 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish
1429 GMT 15 Dec 90

[Text] Buenos Aires, 15 Dec (TELAM)—Uruguayan President Luis Alberto Lacalle Herrera arrived at 1451 GMT at the Olivos presidential residence, where he and Argentine President Menem are scheduled to have lunch. The Uruguayan president is making a private visit to Argentina. Lacalle and Menem are planning to watch the Carlos Pellegrini horse race at the San Isidro track this afternoon.

Bolivia

Senate President on U.S. Ambassador's Remarks

PY1512170090 La Paz PRESENCIA in Spanish
5 Dec 90 p 5

[Excerpts] The remarks made by U.S. Ambassador to Bolivia Robert Gelbard about the risk that democracy runs when there is a usurpation of power were out of place. Senate President Gonzalo Valda said yesterday: "This is a domestic issue that does not concern foreign policy relations between our state and his."

"Although the opinion of the North American diplomat is respectable," I can assure you that the law is respected here, Valda said. What is actually happening is that efforts are being made to give biased interpretations of legal considerations, he added. [passage omitted]

In the senator's opinion, the diplomats accredited to our country must conform to the rules of the foreign service and avoid meddling in domestic problems. [passage omitted]

Senator on 'Annoyance' Over Promotions

PY1412132290 La Paz Television Boliviana
Network in Spanish 1140 GMT 14 Dec 90

[Text] The National Senate has approved the promotion of three brigadier generals to the rank of general. They

are: Generals Guido Sandoval Zambrana, Alejandro Camponovo, and Victor Guzman Bruno.

Senate Defense Committee President Carlos Farah will give us more details now.

[Begin recording] [Farah] We have read the official message of the president of the Republic, in which he submits to us the list of candidates for promotion to their next rank.

I want to tell you with complete sincerity that only now will the committee and I begin to review, study, check, and certify the curriculums and documents of those officers.

There are 22 candidates, not counting the three that have already been promoted to the rank of general.

Regarding your question, I want to tell you that—well now—I have no evidence that some annoyance has been felt or detected within the Armed Forces, an attitude on which the press has reported.

Nevertheless, I just want to say, based on these press reports—because I have not had a chance to confirm the annoyance that has been mentioned... [changes thought] nevertheless, at this point, the same situation always occurs because the number of vacancies never matches the number of officers qualified for promotion, and it is presumed, it is reckoned that there have been manipulations when not everyone is satisfied.

Therefore... [changes thought] well now, I believe that the commander-in-chief of the Armed Forces can answer this question appropriately and authoritatively.

[Reporter] How many vacancies are there?

[Farah] Well, there are 10 vacancies in the Army for promoting colonels to generals. There are eight vacancies in the Air Force, and one vacancy in the Navy.

I am talking about the promotion of colonels to generals in the Army and, regarding the Navy, I am talking about the promotion of ship-of-the-line captains to rear admirals.

[Reporter] How many candidates are there?

[Farah] Well, all those from the same class who have managed to meet all the requirements of the personnel law are candidates. Yet, unfortunately, the number of candidates proposed by the executive branch must strictly conform to the existing vacancies as established by the Constitution. [end recording]

Station Comments on 'Mystery' Over Killings

PY1412130690 La Paz Radio Fides in Spanish
1100 GMT 14 Dec 90

[Text] Demetrio Mamani Quispe, 19, a gardener of Alfredo Rojas, a well-known mining industrialist from

the zone of Pavi, was buried yesterday in La Paz. Mamani Quispe was hit by several nine-mm bullets fired by state security agents.

The Nestor Paz Zamora Commission [CNPZ] so far has caused the death of seven people. Let us remember, for example, the murder of Jose Luis Miranda, the policeman who was guarding the U.S. Marine residence on Villalobos Street in the Miraflores district of La Paz.

Mamani Quispe was shot dead with nine-mm bullets fired by state security agents. This murder is framed within the investigations to find those responsible for the murder of Jorge Lonsdale and his son.

On that occasion three members of the CNPZ were also killed. They are: Miguel Northtufster, Luis Caballero Insfran, and Osvaldo Espinosa. The body of Peruvian citizen Alejandro Escobar Gutierrez was later identified as well.

The state security agents must explain to the country what is happening. The interior minister, in a communique released on Monday, promised to explain the death of Alejandro Escobar Gutierrez and identify those responsible. We believe that Mamani Quispe was also killed by the imprudent action of security agents. We also feel that the investigations cannot be very complicated because Police Chief German Linares, who is also chief of the Interior Ministry Intelligence Department, is responsible for this police team.

It is also appropriate to mention that Colonel Linares, who has been questioned by the press, was also intelligence chief during the government of Victor Paz Estenssoro—that is, the current government reconfirmed him in his post. He must give convincing explanations over the death of Peruvian citizen Alejandro Escobar and of Mamani Quispe. These two murders are still shrouded in mystery, and will probably be explained within the next few hours.

Minister Terms Terrorism 'Threat to Society'

PY1412142690 La Paz Radio Fides in Spanish
1100 GMT 14 Dec 90

[Text] Interior Minister Guillermo Capobianco has stated that terrorism will be fought, regardless of its origin, within the framework of the national Constitution to safeguard the lives of the Bolivian people and the Bolivian democratic process.

[Begin Capobianco recording] Essentially and intrinsically, there is only one kind of terrorism. It is a serious crime and a threat to society, to the state, to the people, to the government, to the family, to our children, and to national feeling. Let us make no mistake; there is no terrorism of the left or of the right—there is only terrorism.

In the same way, there is no opportunism of the right or of the left, just opportunism; there is no corruption of the

left or of the right, just corruption. Ideologically, judicially, criminally, and as a doctrine, there is only one type of terrorism, and it must be fought by the state security organizations and by all sectors of society, and by all social organizations. [end recording]

Antinarcotics Force Seizes Assets of Trafficker

PY1512172090 La Paz Radio Fides in Spanish
1100 GMT 15 Dec 90

[Relay from Santa Cruz by Nataniel Alvarez]

[Text] Last night troops from the Special Antinarcotics Force [FELCN], accompanied by District Attorney (Ides Padilla), raided and temporarily seized two mansions, a farm, and a supermarket that reportedly belong to Jorge Roca Suarez, alias Techo de Paja [Thatched Roof], who was arrested yesterday in the United States on charges of drug trafficking.

Antidrug sources reported that the goods seized from this key Bolivian drug trafficker were worth an estimated \$7 million. The operation was reportedly ordered by Santa Cruz Prefect Rolando Arostegui and the FELCN departmental commander, Colonel Jaime Rojas.

The troops first raided a farm at km 17 on the northern highway, where they found thoroughbred horses and Holland cows. The same troops then raided a luxurious mansion at km 2.5 on the northern highway. This 16-room house, with closed-circuit television, an alarm system, a dish antenna, and other luxurious items typical of drug kingpins, was valued at \$2 million.

The FELCN and the DEA [Drug Enforcement Administration] previously searched for Jorge Roca Suarez in this house in a huge operation carried out under the MNR [Nationalist Revolutionary Movement] government in October 1988. They also searched for him in a residential neighborhood and in another house next door to then Santa Cruz Prefect Roberto Roca Iriarte, but with no success. Last night the troops returned to this house and found it abandoned, so they went in over the main gate.

The same troops also raided the Number One supermarket on Quijarro Street, near the Los Pozos market, in downtown Santa Cruz. According to reports, this supermarket was closed on 10 December and is due to be auctioned off.

Four people were arrested for questioning during the operation. The officials reported that the assets have been provisionally seized until the owners show up with the appropriate documents showing proof of origin for such wealth. If not, in accordance with Law 1008 [on Special Regulations for Coca and Controlled Substances] they will be dedicated to charity organizations and the rehabilitation of drug addicts.

According to sources here, the arrest of Roca Suarez will help clear up several drug trafficking cases, including the Huanchaca incident that took place on 5 September

1986 when Santa Cruz scientist Noel Kempff Mercado and two of his assistants were murdered.

Iturralde Confirms Closure of Embassy in Kuwait

PY1712020090 La Paz EL DIARIO in Spanish
5 Dec 90 p 3

[Excerpts] Foreign Minister Carlos Iturralde has proposed a streamlining of our country's and the Foreign Ministry's foreign service officials because of economic restrictions within the Foreign Ministry.

Upon announcing that the Foreign Ministry already has a proposal for the ministry's 1991 budget ready, the dignitary of state said a streamlining is convenient, although he did not want to mention the number or percentage of officials that will depart the Foreign Ministry. [passage omitted]

The foreign minister confirmed the closure of the Bolivian Embassy in Kuwait as a result of problems that arose after Iraqi troops invaded that nation.

The foreign minister mentioned that the last Bolivian official is already out of that nation and that the government is currently studying the possibility of reopening a mission in that region. He said that, for the time being, he did not want to advance more details on this issue.

FELCN Commander Reports on Drug Operations

PY1412124090 La Paz PRESENCIA in Spanish
30 Nov 90 p 6

[Text] Strict control is being enforced in the Tropical Chapare region and neighboring zones of the departments of Beni and Santa Cruz. According to the Special Antinarcotics Force (FELCN), the control of roads is part of the fourth phase of the "Together We Will Overcome" plan that began during the middle of October 1990.

Colonel Carlos Velasco Bejarano, commander of the FELCN, has reported that the operation includes the preparation, development, and follow up phases, and currently the "Cocaine Red Zone" is being controlled.

He stated that investigations continue on the basis of the evidence of some 150 persons who were arrested during the course of the military-police operation that covered a 500-km [as published] area.

According to Velasco, there are indications that Colombians are currently in Bolivia. "We have received leads from that country that oblige us to redouble our efforts," he said.

The "Together We Will Overcome" plan is the largest military-police operation to have been launched in areas dominated by drug traffickers. Cocaine has been seized, and 150 people, who are accused of producing and trafficking cocaine base and sulfate, have been arrested.

Velasco emphasized that the operation continues. He refused to give detailed information because "the investigations continue on the basis of the evidence that has been given."

The officer announced that within the next few days he will visit the zone to observe what has already been accomplished and to inspect the UMOPAR [Mobile Rural Patrol Unit] units that are carrying out operations in Chapare, Beni, and Santa Cruz. Velasco was installed as acting commander at the end of last week, replacing General Lucio Anez.

The operation involves dragnet operations with logistical support provided by the Navy and Air Force, using launches and helicopters.

Agreement on Controlling Drug Trafficking Signed

PY1512234890 La Paz PRESENCIA in Spanish
29 Nov 90 p 9

[Text] On 28 November, Bolivia and Ecuador agreed to enforce measures to control the illegal trafficking of drugs, psychotropic substances, and chemicals. Carlos Iturralde and Diego Cordovez, the foreign ministers of Bolivia and Ecuador, respectively, signed two agreements at Government House creating a special binational commission.

The ceremony, which was held in the central hall of Government House, was attended by Bolivian President Jaime Paz, his Ecuadoran counterpart Rodrigo Borja, and officials of the two countries.

The first agreement states that illegal trafficking of narcotics and psychotropic substances poses a serious threat to the health and well-being of peoples, and that all nations should share responsibility for resolving this problem.

It adds that the two countries are increasingly affected by this crime and that both countries are interested in promoting reciprocal cooperation for preventive and repressive action through the harmonization of policies and the implementation of specific programs.

The agreement, which has seven articles, emphasizes binational cooperation programs in the area of scientific and technological assistance. It also mentions the frequent exchange of information on the fight against drug trafficking, on improper use of narcotics, and on replacement of farms through alternative development.

Bilateral cooperation includes the exchange of information on control and repression; methods for prevention, treatment, and recovery; detection, control, eradication, and replacement of illegal crops; and control of the import and export of chemical precursors and other materials.

The agreement also mentions the exchange of experts to update organization techniques and structures, the

exchange of specialists, and the promotion of meetings between officials of the two countries.

Concerning the laws on the matter, the two nations agreed to implement programs for exchanging experiences and to establish expeditious court procedures for drug trafficking gangs or individual drug traffickers, or for any person who violates the laws that fight the improper use of drugs.

The two governments also decided to create the Joint Bolivian-Ecuadoran Commission on the Improper Use and Illegal Trafficking of Narcotics and Psychotropic Substances. The commission will be made up of representatives of specialized organs.

This commission will create subcommissions to implement specific tasks such as: Recommending to the governments—within the framework of this agreement—specific joint actions; drafting crop replacement and alternative development plans and programs; and conducting coordinated repression operations. The commission will also present suggestions for implementation of the agreement, for evaluation of how the actions proposed by the agreement are enforced, and for drafting resolutions to guide the commission's work.

Regarding measures to prevent the incorrect use of specific chemical substances, the two governments agreed to draft nine articles for a document appointing the Social Defense Under Secretariat and the National Council for the Control of Narcotics and Psychotropic Substances as the organizations responsible for implementation of the agreement.

The agreement indicates that each government will establish a homogeneous procedure to control the international trade of chemical substances based on registered data on the use, production, and trade of these substances. It also calls for the exchange of information, data on investigations, and coordinated action. In a subparagraph, the agreement establishes that both parties "will coordinate efforts for investigation and implementation of the legal resolutions on chemical substances to ensure utmost efficiency in distribution methods, trade operations, and identification of suspicious transactions."

Regarding compliance with the law, the agreement establishes that "the officials of one government will notify—as soon as possible—the officials of the other government about reports on import, export, shipment, or transshipment of a chemical product earmarked for the processing, production, manufacture, extraction, or illegal preparation of psychotropic substances in the other government's territory."

Police Reinforce Surveillance on Peruvian Border

PY1412154890 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0047 GMT
9 Dec 90

[Text] La Paz, 8 Dec (EFE)—Combined forces of the Army, the police, and the Interior, Migration, and Justice Ministries have reinforced surveillance along the Peruvian border to prevent the entrance of Peruvians who could be linked with the Tupac Amaru Revolutionary Movement [MRTA].

Migration and Justice Under Secretary Jose Luis Paredes has reported that at least three MRTA members could be in Bolivia according to reports issued by the State security organizations.

The Peruvian MRTA and the Bolivian leftist "Nestor Paz Zamora Commission" [CNPZ] organization kidnapped Bolivian industrialist Jorge Lonsdale. The police believe that the ransom requested by the terrorists was destined to finance the armed struggle in Peru. Lonsdale was killed early on the morning of 5 December by his kidnappers when the police broke into the house where he was being held. Three kidnappers, including two Bolivians and Italian-German citizen Miguel Northtufster—the leader of the CNPZ which is linked to the National Liberation Army—died during the attack.

The Bolivian Police are investigating the CNPZ under complete secrecy, but they gave assurance that the MRTA is involved in Lonsdale's kidnapping and in terrorist attacks in La Paz. This fact has been confirmed by the arrest of Peruvian Federico Eulogio Guaman, a MRTA member.

Peruvian citizens who wanted to enter Bolivia previously had to submit their identity cards and a "safe conduct" provided by the Migration Ministry. The Bolivian authorities then revoked this measure that was adopted to prevent the entrance of people linked to terrorism.

Police Commander Felipe Carvajal has said that it is understood that the CNPZ has not disintegrated and that MRTA members remain in Bolivia because the symbols of the CNPZ have been painted on walls in the shantytowns of La Paz.

Cooperation Agreements Signed With Ecuador

PY1612001890 La Paz PRESENCIA in Spanish
29 Nov 90 p 9

[Text] Bolivia and Ecuador, in agreements signed by their foreign ministers yesterday, have decided to promote cooperation in the scientific and technological fields, in the mining and agroindustrial production fields, and in the development of diplomatic academies.

Science and Technology

The Scientific and Technological Cooperation Agreement between the two countries—operating through the Science and Technology Directorate [Direccion de

Ciencia y Tecnologia] of Bolivia and the Science and Technology National Council [Consejo Nacional de Ciencia y Tecnologia] of Ecuador—was established within the framework of the Technical and Scientific Cooperation Agreement signed in 1972.

The agreement provides for joint activities and projects designed to train human resources and to improve the technological level of the two countries.

The projects will be agreed on annually with the possibility of adding new proposals throughout the year.

Joint actions before international organizations will be carried out in a search for financing for established projects.

Planning, coordination, and assessment of the projects will be carried out by a committee headed by duly accredited authorities or delegates, who will meet annually, alternating between La Paz and Quito. The results of the projects will be included in annual reports that will be submitted to the respective governments.

Moreover, copyright, patents, and related issues will be regulated by the international conventions that have been signed by the two countries and according to national laws.

According to specific regulations to be approved within the framework of the agreement, nonprofit organizations will benefit from the results of the projects.

Technical Cooperation

The Bilateral Horizontal Technical Cooperation Agreement seeks to strengthen the Bolivian-Ecuadoran commission that is in charge of carrying out activities within the program designed to identify and assess the demand and supply of technical cooperation between developing countries.

This agreement will cover the mining, industrial, energy, metalworking, agricultural and livestock, small and medium industry, handicraft, and educational fields and the modernization and privatization processes.

The program will be implemented in mid-January 1991 with projects that already have financial aid and it will be up to the respective foreign ministries to promote the remaining projects. The Bolivian-Ecuadoran Technical Commission should meet twice a year to assess progress made by the program and submit a report to their respective foreign ministries that, through their embassies in La Paz and Quito, will monitor and execute the aforementioned program.

Netherlands Grants \$35-Million Fund

PY1712113490 La Paz Television Boliviana
Network in Spanish 0030 GMT 14 Dec 90

[Summary] The Netherlands Government has granted Bolivia a \$35-million nonreimbursable fund that will be

used for ongoing projects and for new projects. The agreement was signed at the Foreign Ministry building.

Brazil

Manufacture of Chemical Weapons Discussed

PY1512010290 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO
in Portuguese 14 Dec 90 p 8

[Text] Foreign Minister Francisco Rezek reported in Brasilia yesterday that Brazil and Argentina are negotiating an agreement to ban the manufacture of chemical weapons. Rezek said their objective is to provide greater domestic security for their citizens and to prevent private companies from producing this type of weapon, the use of which was banned by a 1925 Geneva convention.

Furthermore, the Brazilian Government wants to convey a message to the international community: Brazil is rigorously complying with the convention. It is also trying to undo the bad impression caused by the perception of Brazil as a supplier of military technology to Iraq when the Gulf crisis erupted. After stating that Brazil has no chemical weapons, Rezek justified the agreement.

Rezek said: It is better to establish rules before anything happens. Had we done this earlier we would have avoided the case of Brigadier Hugo Piva who, after leaving the Air Force, began to develop military technology for Iraq.

Landowner Found Guilty of Chico Mendes Murder

PY1612185590 Madrid EFE in English 0454 GMT
16 Dec 90

[Text] Xapuri, Brazil, Dec 16 (EFE)—A Brazilian ranch owner and his son were found guilty Sunday [16 December] of murdering Amazon rainforest martyr Chico Mendes. Darci Alves da Silva, 23, was sentenced to 19 years in prison for carrying out the crime, and his father, Darly, was given the same jail sentence for ordering the December 22, 1988 slaying.

Mendes, who organized rubber tappers in the remote Amazon state of Acre to prevent the deforestation of the rainforest, was shot dead as he stepped out the back door of his home.

Trade Union Leader Killed in Pernambuco State

PY1412175490 Rio de Janeiro Rede Globo
Television in Portuguese 1500 GMT 14 Dec 90

[Excerpts] Pernambuco police are investigating the death of trade union leader Jose Helio da Silva, although they do not yet have any clues. He was fatally shot several times yesterday in an ambush in the district of Joaquim Nabuco, 130 km from Recife.

Jose Helio da Silva was 26 years of age. He was married and his wife, who is shown in this photograph, is four months

pregnant. In addition to his trade union activities, da Silva participated in a local radio station program.

Da Silva had received death threats through notes addressed to his trade union organization. One of the last notes stated that he would end up like [environmentalist] Chico Mendes if he did not shut his mouth.

Jose Helio da Silva was killed from behind by shots from a 12-caliber shotgun and a revolver while driving the pickup truck that belonged to the trade union. [passage omitted]

Another trade union leader was wounded during the ambush in which Jose Helio da Silva was killed. His name is Jose Cicero da Silva, the trade union's treasurer, who was shot in the back.

The Pernambuco Security Secretariat is keeping quiet over the location of the hospital where he was admitted, but guaranteed that the military police are protecting the trade union leader.

Budget Alters Plans in Armed Forces Services

PY1712004690 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO
in Portuguese 9 Dec 90 p 2

[Text] Army

General Carlos Tinoco, current Army minister, received the Army with a limited budget, as was warned by his predecessor, General Leonidas Pires Goncalves. Last August Pires Goncalves warned that adequate levels in basic activities could not be maintained with the restricted allocations in the Army's 1990 budget. In his report, Pires Goncalves drew attention to the fact that six projects in the Army Ministry's budget were at serious risk. Reequipping the Army was seriously handicapped, and allocations for research and development were cut to the bone. Neither automation for cartographic work nor barracks construction received any funds at all. No resources were provided for housing units in military villages, and the federal government's participation in the capital stock of companies such as IMBEL [War Materiel Industry] was not supplemented.

Navy

The maritime fleet modernization project—which was to be carried on by current Navy Minister Admiral Mario Cesar Flores—was seriously affected. In 1980, then Navy Minister Maximiano da Fonseca drafted a plan that called for the purchase of two air defense frigates, two aircraft carriers, 16 corvettes, 12 1,200-tonne patrol ships, and 12 250-tonne patrol ships equipped with Exocet-type missiles. The plan also foresaw the construction of four Tupy-class, six NAC 1-class, and four NAC 2-class submarines.

The purchase of two NAC 1-class submarines was canceled, and work is proceeding on construction of at least one NAC 2-class submarine, which will be the prototype for construction of the first Brazilian nuclear submarine

by the year 2000. The Inhauma-class corvettes, construction of which was to be completed in three stages by the year 1995, will not be operational in this time frame; four should have been built by this year, but only one has been completed.

Air Force

The Air Force had to cut flying hours scheduled for this year by 40 percent, including the National Air Courier service. Preparatory courses for training schools were canceled, several courses were suspended or reduced, and staff officers were discharged.

The AMX program was cut 50 percent. Of the 15 planes that were to be bought this year, only eight were acquired. Current Aeronautics Minister Socrates Monteiro had to cut resources for the installation of an air space control system by 45 percent; \$130 million were to be invested in it. The ministry's construction plans in various units had to be canceled.

The crisis also hit Embraer [Brazilian Aeronautics Enterprise], which is affiliated with the Aeronautics Ministry. On 6 December, engineer Ozilio Silva turned in his resignation as head of Embraer because of an inability to straighten out its financial situation.

Work Programs Take Up Allocations

PY1712011890 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO
in Portuguese 9 Dec 90 p 2

[Text] Brasilia—The Army Ministry will receive 1.5 percent of the fiscal and social security budgets submitted to Congress—approximately 8.677 trillion cruzeiros for 1991, at May prices. [sentence as published] The Navy will receive 1.34 percent of this total.

The report on the Army Ministry from the Joint Budget Commission indicates that 49 percent of the allotted resources will go to personnel payroll and social benefit payments. Of the 129.721 billion cruzeiros allocated, 65.804 [number as published] billion cruzeiros will be earmarked for implementation of a work program prepared by the Army Ministry.

Next year 2.540 billion cruzeiros will be invested in enterprises that are part of the ministry's structure—War Materiel Industry and Prologo Inc., for instance; this is approximately 0.3 percent of the budget for the state-run companies. The investment initially expected for these industries was \$4.768 billion cruzeiros.

The Navy will earmark 116.278 billion cruzeiros for its work program through the budget for the following units: Navy Secretary General, Maritime Court, Interministerial Commission Secretariat for Resources of the Sea, Naval Fund, Maritime Professional Training Development Fund, and Sea Studies Fund.

The report from the Joint Budget Commission says these resources will barely be enough to maintain and continue activities and investments that were previously initiated.

Compared with the 1990 budget, the 1991 Navy budget is 10 percent lower. The report stresses the fact that these budgetary allocations will only cover one-third of the ministry's needs.

Visit by Castro's Son Focuses on Nuclear Issues

PY1412230090 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO
in Portuguese 14 Dec 90 p 2

[From the "Political Outlook" column by Tereza Cruvinel]

[Text] Fidel Castro Diaz Balart, son of Cuban leader Fidel Castro, is visiting Brazil. Yesterday, he met with members of the Nuclep [Nuclebras Heavy Equipment, Inc.] board of directors. On Sunday, he will have lunch in Brasilia with leading Brazilian nuclear officials. Castro Diaz heads the Cuban nuclear sector.

Interest in Nuclear Safety Noted

PY1412233890 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1558 GMT
14 Dec 90

[Text] Rio de Janeiro, 14 Dec (EFE)—Fidel Castro Diaz Balart, executive secretary of the Cuban Atomic Energy Commission and son of Cuban President Fidel Castro, has stated that Cuba is interested in cooperating with Brazil in the area of nuclear safety. Castro, who arrived in Brazil on 12 December at the head of a scientific delegation, told Brazilian reporters that Cuba "seeks nuclear safety agreements similar to those we already have with Argentina and Mexico."

The newspaper O GLOBO reported today that on 16 December in Brasilia, the Cuban official will meet with Jose Luiz de Santana Carvalho, secretary of the National Commission for Nuclear Energy (CNEN), and other Brazilian nuclear officials.

On 13 December the Cuban delegation visited Nuclep [Nuclebras Heavy Equipment, Inc.] facilities in Itaguai, 73 km from Rio de Janeiro. Nuclep manufactures a Brazilian-designed gauge to measure radiation in the human body; Cuba recently purchased one of these gauges.

Agreement on Pro-Government Bloc Formalized

PY1412214290 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO
PAULO in Portuguese 12 Dec 90 p 6

[Excerpt] Brasilia—A pro-government bloc in the Senate was formalized on the evening of 10 December during a three-hour meeting called by President Fernando Collor at Planalto Palace. Present at the meeting were 33 senators from the PTB [Brazilian Labor Party], PDS [Social Democratic Party], PTR [Workers Renewal Party], PST [Social Workers Party], PFL [Liberal Front Party], and PRN [National Reconstruction Party]. The

bloc, which will be called the Social Liberal Congressional Movement [Movimento Parlamentar Liberal Social], was a requirement that Collor voiced during the meeting.

One of the senators present at the meeting noted that Collor told the senators: "I want to make the government's strength explicit." "And I want the bloc to begin acting in a concentrated effort," Collor added, asking Jose Ignacio (PST-Espirito Santo State), the bloc's leader, to achieve the political alliance [costuras politicas]. Justice Minister Jarbas Passarinho, the bloc's main architect, and Education Minister Carlos Chiarelli also participated in the meeting.

Collor, along with 15 PFL senators, participated in a luncheon yesterday at Senator Marco Maciel's (PFL-Pernambuco State) house. During the luncheon, the agreement was sealed. The senators, who signed a document formalizing the bloc, are primarily committed to guaranteeing conditions for government [condicoes de governabilidade] during the adjustment phase of the anti-inflationary economic program. [passage omitted]

Salary Law Passed by Congress, Sent to President

PY1612201690 Brasilia Domestic Service
in Portuguese 2100 GMT 13 Dec 90

[Text] President Fernando Collor de Mello has 15 days to either promulgate or veto the law on salary policy passed by Congress today. The forecast is that the president will veto the law and maintain the salary bonus.

[Begin Reporter Iara Selva recording] Through an agreement between bloc leaderships, Congress today unanimously approved, both in the Chamber of Deputies and the Senate, the new salary law. The text that was approved after three hours of debate is that of Provisional Measure 273 dealing with salaries—now converted into law—which maintains the principle of nonreduction of salaries and incorporates into labor contracts advantages granted to workers up to the date of the law's promulgation.

The law also establishes a salary adjustment clause that automatically applies when inflation reaches 15 percent. Through this automatic clause, workers will be guaranteed salary readjustments of 90 percent of the previous month's inflation rate—that is, if the inflation rate rises to 15 percent, the workers will be granted a readjustment of 13.5 percent. This automatic readjustment clause will benefit those who earn up to 10 monthly minimum salaries. Above this salary limit, salary readjustments will be determined by free bargaining between employees and employers.

Those who earn one monthly minimum salary will have their salary readjusted according to the CPI [consumer price index] every month. In addition, their salary will be increased 6.09 percent above the CPI as a real salary gain.

The law also provides for compensation for salary losses since March of this year. This compensation will be implemented in eight equal installments to be paid from 1 February 1991.

The law also included the bonus granted by the government.

Since Provisional Measure 273 had been modified, the president of the Republic has 15 days from today to sanction or veto this law. [end recording]

In the opinion of Deputy Humberto Souto, the government leader in the Chamber of Deputies, President Collor should veto the salary law approved by Congress, but not the bonus included in it.

[Begin Souto recording] The president has always said he is against indexation of the economy because he believes indexation is bad for the workers, the economy, and the country. Since this law includes indexation, I believe the president should feel free to veto it, if necessary. [end recording]

In analyzing the vote of pro-government congressmen who supported the salary law, Deputy Humberto Souto said the agreement was on the procedure, not on the law's merit. For this reason, Souto added, these congressmen feel free to support a presidential veto if the president so decides.

Two Killed in Clash Between Police, Squatters

PY1412023490 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1430 GMT
12 Dec 90

[Text] Diadema (Brazil), 12 Dec (EFE)—Two civilians were killed and more than 45 people injured in a clash on 11 December in the Jardim Inamar neighborhood in this town in Greater Sao Paulo. The clash was between the police and members of the Landless People's Movement [Movimiento de los Sin Tierra] (MST), who occupied some property in September 1990.

Among the 45 people injured, 18 were policemen. The most serious cases involve councilman Manoel Boni, who is not affiliated with any political party, and squatter Geraldo Benicio, whose hands were cut off during the clash with the police. Mounted policemen wielding swords and revolvers dislodged the squatters.

The clash, which began in the early afternoon after talks to achieve a peaceful departure of the squatters failed, involved about 500 policemen, including riot squads with dogs, cavalry, and firemen, and about 600 MST members.

Chile

2 Injured in Bomb Explosion at Bank in Santiago

PY1512143090 Santiago Domestic Service
in Spanish 1000 GMT 15 Dec 90

[Text] A bomb that exploded at 2330 last night at the front door of the (?BID) Bank at 828 Agustinas Street near San Antonio Street injured two people and caused serious property damage.

The explosion, which could be heard throughout downtown Santiago, tore off the front door of the bank and damaged neighboring buildings as the shock wave broke windows.

Eyewitnesses reported that Carabineros saw three young men in front of the bank a few minutes before the explosion. It is presumed that they planted the bomb.

The injured persons were Rene Ulloa Reyes, 18, and Mario Tapia Guzman, 47, who suffered acoustic trauma and arm and leg injuries caused by shrapnel. The two pedestrians were passing by the site when the bomb went off.

Mormon Church, Railway Bombed

PY1512195690 Santiago Domestic Service
in Spanish 1600 GMT 15 Dec 90

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] Last night at 2330, unidentified individuals detonated an explosive device made up of .3 kg of ammonium gelignite at the Mormon church at 5245 [name indistinct] Street in Conchali District. The property damage was not serious.

At 2230 on km 24 of the railway, unidentified individuals threw an explosive device made up of .25 kg of [word indistinct], causing only minor damage. Train service was not interrupted. [passage omitted]

Terrorists Destroy Mormon Church

PY1712000290 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2227 GMT
16 Dec 90

[Text] Santiago, 16 Dec (EFE)—Chilean police reported today that presumed ultraleftist terrorists attacked and destroyed a Mormon church today in Conchali District, in the northern part of Santiago.

The report says two men and two women threw several incendiary bombs at the church, fired shots in the air, and left leaflets from the Lautaro Youth Movement, a group that has claimed responsibility for many attacks this year.

According to Carabineros (the militarized police) sources, the church was completely destroyed by fire. Mormon churches have been one of the favorite targets of terrorist groups in recent months.

Today's attack came on top of five bomb attacks in Santiago on 15 December against banks, electrical facilities, and other Mormon churches. These attacks left three people wounded and caused heavy damage.

The Manuel Rodriguez Patriotic Front claimed responsibility for the 15 December attacks through telephone calls to media organizations, noting that the attacks were meant to celebrate the seventh anniversary of its foundation.

Silva Cimmera on Relations With U.S., Europe

PY1512014690 Santiago Radio Cooperativa Network
in Spanish 2200 GMT 14 Dec 90

[Text] Foreign Minister Enrique Silva Cimmera stated today that Chilean interests make no distinction and do not establish any priorities between the United States and Europe. Silva Cimmera made this statement while assessing the first nine months of the current government on the occasion of the first anniversary of Patricio Aylwin's election as president of the Republic.

Silva Cimmera said these months have been full of achievements within a climate of peace.

During a news conference, Silva Cimmera said the Foreign Ministry has executed the government's foreign policy, which is based on three main premises: respect for international treaties and the main guidelines of international policy; integration with Latin America; and overcoming existing problems with the United States. When he was asked whether the United States or Europe receives priority treatment, he said:

[Begin Silva recording] I want to point out that Chile has many different interests. We are willing to reach a free trade agreement with the United States; we are working within these parameters because President Bush's government and he, personally, have admitted that today Chile has the conditions to become a productive country in that context. I say today—and not yesterday—for the simple reason that although it is true that necessary conditions in the economic field were created previously, necessary conditions only began to appear in the political field, especially regarding the democratic system, nine months ago. It should be understood that what the U.S. President has put forward refers to a harmonious reconciliation of the two circumstances. Therefore, it is pointless to maintain, as some do, that the government is or is not benefiting from what was achieved in the past. In the first place, we have never ceased to recognize that important achievements were reached in the international economic field in the past. If we are achieving things now that were not achieved in the past, it is precisely because today Chileans have shown that they can establish a government capable of reconciling an economic concept with a concept of a modern democracy, as we have done. [end recording]

Regarding Cuba, he said relations will not be renewed for the time being. Silva Cimmera said the government's

arguments are the same: There are pending issues with Cuba that remain unsolved.

Cites Criteria for Cuban Relations

*PY1512210890 Santiago Domestic Service
in Spanish 1600 GMT 15 Dec 90*

[Text] Foreign Minister Enrique Silva Cimma has said Chile will not reestablish diplomatic relations with Cuba as long as it is not clear whether such ties would benefit our country.

Silva Cimma also pointed out that the Foreign Ministry has gained solid achievements in integration with the rest of Latin America and the world because President Aylwin has harmonized economic development with democratic stability.

On Cuba, Silva Cimma said that as long as there are no clear, obvious signs showing whether these relations would be convenient for our country or not, the Foreign Ministry will not authorize them.

Silva Cimma added that some doubtful situations regarding Cuba exist, but declined to comment on them.

Silva Cimma Leaves for Rio Group-EEC Meeting

*PY1512205090 Santiago Domestic Service
in Spanish 1600 GMT 15 Dec 90*

[Text] Foreign Minister Enrique Silva Cimma left for Italy today to attend a 17-21 December meeting in Rome between the Rio Group and the EEC.

During the meeting, which will conclude with the signing of the Act of Rome, guidelines will be established for relations between the two organizations. The meeting marks the beginning of bilateral talks between Latin American and European sectors.

Foreign Minister Silva Cimma was accompanied by Carlos Portales, Foreign Ministry foreign policy director general; Augusto Bermudez, Foreign Ministry planning director; and Claudio Vazquez, Foreign Ministry chief of staff.

Following signing of the Act of Rome on 20 December, contacts between the two groups will continue with a meeting in Luxembourg during the first quarter of 1991.

Retired Army Officers Arrested, Released on Bail

*PY1512162090 Santiago Radio Chilena Network
in Spanish 1600 GMT 14 Dec 90*

[Text] Judge Marcos Libedinsky, who is investigating the case of the illegal La Cutufa financial firm, has indicted four former high-ranking Army officers and released them on bail for 20,000 pesos. The following retired officers were affected by the measure: Colonel Geronimo Pantoja, former deputy director of the CNI [National

Information Center]; Colonel Enrique Cowell Mansilla; Commander Gerardo Paredes; and Colonel Sergio Silva Blanco.

The former Army officers were indicted for violating Article 34 of the general banking law, as explained by clerk Francisco Cana:

[Begin recording] [Cana] Article 34 forbids people from promoting a financial institution without authorization.

[Reporter] Will other decisions be adopted in the case?

[Cana] Not today or over the weekend. [end recording]

Judge Libedinsky has dismissed all charges against retired Colonel Jaime Rowe del Rio.

Meanwhile, Brigadier Jaime Lucares Robledo, former military household chief, was also released on bail of 20,000 pesos. (Marcelo Dibie), attorney for retired General Gustavo Abarzua, former CNI director, reiterated in writing that his client is not connected with the illegal financial company. He said Gen. Abarzua will cooperate as much as he can to clarify the facts.

Judge Indicts Man in U.S. Consulate Incident

*PY1512021890 Santiago Radio Cooperativa Network
in Spanish 2200 GMT 14 Dec 90*

[Excerpt] First Criminal Court Judge Mario Carroza Espinoza today indicted Guillermo Armando Malagueno Bolbaran, a former employee of the Army Intelligence Department, DINE, under charges of trespassing [violacion de domicilio].

Malagueno is the same person who surreptitiously entered the U.S. Consulate at dawn on 12 December. It has been learned that Malagueno admitted to Judge Carroza on two occasions that he is an alcoholic and that he was intoxicated that night and decided he wanted to join the military forces stationed in the Persian Gulf. [passage omitted]

Communists Deny Charges of Ties to Armed Group

*PY1512005490 Santiago Radio Chilena Network
in Spanish 1600 GMT 14 Dec 90*

[Text] The Communist Party of Chile [PCCh] currently does not have a military force. This was stated today by PCCh Central Committee members Manuel Cantero and Manuel Hernandez. When asked about statements made by former PCCh member Antonio Leal, who said that the PCCh maintained an armed group, Manuel Hernandez said the party is undergoing a process of renewal. He also denied any connection with the Manuel Rodriguez Patriotic Front [FPMR].

[Begin Hernandez recording] To say that we are continuing with the same methods of struggle under democracy is simply a publicity maneuver. I think that the ones who are happy with Mr. Leal's statements are, without a doubt, the National Renewal and UDI [Independent

Democratic Union] parties because Leal's charges of terrorism by the FPMR allow them to justify holding political prisoners under a democratic state. [end recording]

The PCCh leader also asserted that the FPMR he knew is not the same one that has acted in the past year. Therefore, the PCCh is not assuming any ties with actions carried out by FPMR members.

Manuel Cantero also regretted statements made by Deputy Jorge Schaulsohn, from the PPD [Party for Democracy], who categorically ruled out an alliance with the PCCh in the upcoming municipal elections. Cantero said his party is willing to cooperate with all political parties who want to accept the PCCh as an ally in this process.

MIR Faction Leader Evaluates Movement

*PY1612225690 Santiago HOY in Spanish
26 Nov-2 Dec 90 pp 15-17*

[Interview with Nelson Gutierrez, leader of the political faction of the Movement of the Revolutionary Left, by Maria Irene Soto in Santiago; date not given]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] [Soto] Your return to the country is seen as an acceleration of the renewal process started by your faction. Do you believe that evaluation?

[Gutierrez] I believe our return is related to a great effort for historic recovery, an effort for the change and renewal of MIR's [Movement of the Revolutionary Left] revolutionary concepts, which began in the early 1980's and then led to the movement's division. I have always advocated change in the movement's internal struggle, and in this regard, I can say that my return is related to a continuation of that effort. We are thinking of announcing the continuation of that effort in a news conference.

[Soto] In the most recent congressional elections the left, as a whole, came out in a very bad position. Keeping that in mind, what is the MIR position now?

[Gutierrez] The MIR is making a great effort to update its revolutionary concepts. We definitely do not believe Marxism is dead.

[Soto] In other words, you definitely do not share the concepts in Carlos Altamirano's [former secretary general of the Socialist Party] letter to the socialists.

[Gutierrez] No. I did not like either Altamirano's letter or his interview with Patricia Politzer because I believe Altamirano is not very consistent in the things he says.

[Soto] Let me read you a phrase in that letter: "Renewal or death is the unavoidable command of the left nowadays in the world." What do you say to that?

[Gutierrez] Putting it like that does not say anything. The problem is what direction you take in the renewal process. There are leftist sectors that are changing; their

renewal is not, however, aimed at reevaluating democracy, but at reevaluating capitalism. We do not advocate that.

[Soto] What is happening with MIR? Is it still Marxist-Leninist?

[Gutierrez] Let me say that MIR continues to be a revolutionary force instead of saying that it is first of all Marxist-Leninist. For us, being revolutionary means basically two things. First, because we have some sensibility to injustice and inhumanity, we became revolutionaries at an early age, and second, we believe that capitalism is essentially inhumane and unjust.

[Soto] But you advocate elections. How can you build a socialist society in the government in four to eight years if you are elected?

[Gutierrez] What is happening is that socialism is still being invented. The society we know as socialist was built in countries where classical revolutionary theory was not initially considered.

[Soto] Do you value the Cuban revolution?

[Gutierrez] The Cuban revolution is for me the most just and equal society in Latin America. No capitalist system has done what Cuba has in terms of satisfying the population's overall basic needs.

[Soto] But Cuba does not hold elections.

[Gutierrez] What is happening is that socialist societies are very young. It took capitalism almost 350 years to build the middle class parliamentary democratic system that grew in the West. The discovery of new political forms of a more democratic nature is a problem that is only now being studied based on the socialist experience. I have no doubt that a more democratic society will emerge from the process being experienced in the Soviet Union and from the process that, in one way or another, is going on in Cuba.

[Soto] Going back to national issues, you said MIR has abandoned the armed struggle, but Martin Hernandez [not further identified] told HOY a few months ago that "the need for a revolution in this country will return again." When that comes will the armed struggle return?

[Gutierrez] I would not put it that way because people sometimes believe that the only weapon of a revolutionary movement is a submachine gun. The arsenal is really much more than that. The arms used are different for each case. One example is the weapon we are currently using in the struggle to obtain enough room to express our policy legally.

[Soto] Are you planning to legalize MIR?

[Gutierrez] Not MIR, but a movement with a revolutionary nature.

[Soto] Who would make up this movement?

[Gutierrez] We believe all sectors that have no legal political voice and that have struggled not only in the last two, but in the last 10 and 20 years should make up this movement.

[Soto] Will the other two MIR factions be included?

[Gutierrez] It would be difficult because they have a different policy.

[Soto] With this plan you are completely discarding other leftist groups, such as PS [Socialist Party].

[Gutierrez] MIR has never considered that sector. The reason for the existence of MIR is not the same as the factors that justify the existence of PS or PCCh [Communist Party of Chile]. We are a different organization. This is what I said when I arrived at the airport, and some people have interpreted it as a call to lay down our arms. [passage omitted]

MIR Faction Formed; Objectives Released

PY1512230890 Santiago EL MERCURIO in Spanish
5 Dec 90 p C 5

[Report By Luis Aguilera Chanet]

[Text] Concepcion—The provisional directorate of the "MIR [Movement of the Revolutionary Left] under Construction" [MIR en Construccion] faction has announced here the movement's division, criticizing the government of Patricio Aylwin and pointing out that "demands as of the fourth month of the current government's tenure have finally demonstrated the theoretical and political bankruptcy of the MIR directorate."

This new MIR faction announced its viewpoints in a document signed by Ivan Chavez, for Temuco; Luciano Vejar, for Concepcion; Carlos Moreno, for Santiago; Oscar Gonzalez, for Antofagasta; and Miguel Perez, Hugo Carcamo, and Pedro Huerta for the [MIR] Central Committee.

The document states: "Today, our task in Temuco, Osorno, Concepcion, Linares, Santiago, Valparaiso, Arica, Antofagasta, Iquique, and Calama is to struggle, facing the people, for a new constitution and a popular democratic government, for the political front and reconstruction of the popular movement, for the regrouping of revolutionaries, and for reunification of MIR."

PPD Reportedly 2d Largest Political Force

PY1512003890 Santiago Domestic Service
in Spanish 1000 GMT 14 Dec 90

[Excerpt] The PPD [Parties for Democracy] claims to be the second largest political force in the country. PPD President Erich Schnake has said that the PPD can lead the coalition [Coalition of Parties for Democracy] and field a central-left presidential candidate in 1993. Reporter Raul Pena gives us a further report on this:

[Begin recording] PPD President Erich Schnake has said that his party can aspire to leading the coalition and to fielding a central-left presidential candidate in 1993.

Schnake returned from Europe and immediately resumed activities within his party, which, according to a survey, has recently increased by almost five percent. He was asked about the concern expressed by various sectors of the Christian Democratic Party over expansion of the PPD, the advantage the Socialist Party would gain from this expansion, and the possible leftist alliance the socialists and Communists may be forming.

Schnake said his party has indeed grown, and it is only natural to see some concern within the Christian Democratic Party. He also discarded formation of a leftist alliance made up of the Communist and Socialist Parties because the sectors close to the government believe agreement is the basic factor in consolidating democracy. He said a leftist alliance is an obsolete concept without any current value, lacking social and political relevance. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Two Alleged Lautaro Youth Terrorists Arrested

PY1512164890 Santiago EL MERCURIO in Spanish
24 Nov 90 p C 3

[Report by Mario Pena Carreno]

[Text] La Serena—Two alleged members of the Lautaro Youth Movement have been detained by Carabineros in this city on charges of having perpetrated criminal and terrorist acts. The detainees are: Edgardo Ricardo Trigo Zepeda, 25, a single worker living at 3040 Arauco Street in the Juan XXIII shantytown; and Darwin Eduardo Gonzalez Castillo, 26, a single man who lives at 924 Baquedano Street in the Gabriel Coll shantytown.

Extremist Killed in Clash Identified

PY1512162090 Santiago Domestic Service
in Spanish 1000 GMT 14 Dec 90

[Excerpt] General Eugenio Palacios, chief of the Carabineros Third Zone, has released an official communique on the clash in the town of Molina in which an extremist died and a Carabinero and a minor were injured.

The communique indicates that the incident took place when personnel from the Talca Carabineros Prefecture and the Santiago GOPE [Special Operations Group] tried to break up an extremist cell at 1751 Oscar Kommentz Street in southern Molina.

Upon arriving at the house, the police were confronted by a man who has been identified as Pablo Hernandez, although he carried a forged identity card with the name of Luis Gonzalez Rivera. [passage omitted]

Lautaro Group Hijacks Truck, Distributes Goods

PY1512201490 Santiago Domestic Service
in Spanish 1600 GMT 15 Dec 90

[Text] A truck from the COPROLE [expansion unknown] dairy products company was attacked this morning by a Lautaro Youth Movement group at the intersection of Central and [name indistinct] Streets. This information was given to a national news agency by a Lautaro Youth Movement spokesman.

The subversives took the vehicle to the Yungay shantytown while five extremist brigades disrupted traffic on nearby streets and shouted slogans. At the Yungay shantytown, the criminals broke open the truck's doors and distributed the products inside among the shantytown dwellers while the combat brigades shouted: Subversives and cheerful, we are the youth ready for power!

The Carabineros are carrying out a broad operation in the area to find the extremists.

National Group of Free Labor Unions Formed

PY1512022690 Santiago Domestic Service
in Spanish 2200 GMT 14 Dec 90

[Text] The National Group of Free Labor Unions [Agrupacion Nacional de Sindicatos Libres] has been created. It is headed by union leaders who describe themselves as politically independent and who endorse a harmonious coexistence with businessmen.

Samuel Astorga, president of this new organization, said the independent labor sector is enormous since over 3 million workers are not unionized and do not have a leadership. The labor leaders said their grass-roots organizations have approximately 300,000 members from different political leanings, such as Christian Democrats, Socialists, and rightist unionists, among others. Astorga said this organization holds a nonconfrontational attitude within the framework of a new labor union culture based on solidaristic unity that rejects any manipulation by political parties.

According to CUT [United Labor Federation], the new organization is a masked, meaningless, and unrepresentative organization.

Airline To Begin Charter Flights to Falklands

PY1412144290 Santiago Domestic Service
in Spanish 1000 GMT 14 Dec 90

[Text] The private airline (?TAM), headquartered in Punta Arenas, will begin charter flights during this month between this southern city and the Malvinas archipelago, transporting Chilean workers to and from those islands in the South Atlantic.

The Argentine Government has authorized the airline company to fly over Argentine territory, allowing the airline company to use the most direct route.

The authorization was issued by the Argentine Commercial Air Transportation Directorate [Direccion de Transporte Aereo Comercial] in response to a petition made by the Civil Aeronautics Board of Chile.

Through an official communique, it has been reported that the resolution was favorable, taking into account that the Chilean Government's petition will benefit many citizens who work in those islands, especially now that the year-end festivities are so close.

Accords on Housing, Culture Signed With Sweden

PY1612235290 Santiago Radio Chilena Network
in Spanish 1600 GMT 11 Dec 90

[Excerpt] The Governments of Chile and Sweden have signed three cooperation agreements in the areas of housing, culture, and improvements in women's living standards. The ceremony was held in the great dining room of La Moneda Palace. The agreements were signed by Swedish Cooperation Minister [title as heard] Lena Hjelm-Wallen and Chilean Planning Minister Sergio Molina.

The agreement on housing will benefit the relatives of homeless people in the second, seventh, and metropolitan regions. The three-year cooperation agreement totals about \$15 million.

The agreement on the development of cultural projects implemented by the Chilean Government involves about \$300,000 for the first year.

Finally, the agreement to develop projects to improve the living standard of women in poor districts for the 1991-1993 period totals about \$1.5 million. [passage omitted]

LA NACION Reporter Summoned by Prosecutor

PY1412174490 Santiago Domestic Service
in Spanish 1000 GMT 14 Dec 90

[Text] For the second time in less than six months, LA NACION newspaper director Abraham Santibanez has been summoned to a military prosecutor's office to testify on libel charges filed by the Military Attorney General's office. This time he was accompanied by LA NACION deputy director Alberto Luengo who wrote a commentary on the La Cutufa [financial scandal] that was published on Sunday 28 October.

The two journalists had to wait for a long time before they were received because—as they were told—the summons had been sent on the wrong date.

In August, Santibanez and other LA NACION journalists were interrogated by the incumbent of the 5th Military Prosecutor's office on a report datelined Valdivia. Some quotation marks in the headline of this report had been omitted.

Colombia

Minister Says Court Not Pressured by Traffickers

PA1412195190 Bogota Inravision Television
Cadena 2 in Spanish 1730 GMT 14 Dec 90

[Passages within quotation marks are recorded]

[Text] Colombia's justice minister, Jaime Giraldo Angel, has declared that Decree 2047, which establishes benefits for drug traffickers who surrender to the authorities, has not been a result of pressure from the Extraditables. He said that the government is not being indulgent.

In saying this, the minister was responding to the president of the Supreme Court, in whose opinion emotions have prevailed in writing legislation.

During a ceremony to present awards to the best justices and employees of the Judicial Branch, Supreme Court President Jorge Carreno reiterated the needs of the justice branch and cautioned that measures on how to punish crime are being casually dictated. He admonished the government:

[Carreno] "We must not give or seek solutions of a temporary nature based on wavering emotions or feelings, but establish a serious and adequate investigation system that would serve to provide advice to the judges and contribute toward uncovering crime and criminals."

[Giraldo Angel] "The fact that the doors of justice have been opened so that the people can get in does not indicate indulgence.

[Journalist] "Are these decisions emotional, the product of a moment of crisis, Mr. Minister?"

[Giraldo Angel] "The president [not further identified] was not referring to these decisions because they have been the result of careful thinking, often with the cooperation of the judicial branch."

The minister also said that soft measures for drug traffickers have not been, and will not be, brought about by the kidnapping of journalists.

[Giraldo Angel] "This government decision was not adopted because of it and will not be modified because of it."

'Last' FARC Camp Said Secured in La Uribe

PA1612173490 Bogota Inravision Television
Cadena 2 in Spanish 0100 GMT 16 Dec 90

[Excerpt] Until 9 December this was the famous Casa Verde, the powerful small fort of the FARC [Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia], a place where on several occasions the peace commissioners of several governments have met with top FARC leaders, and recently with the ELN [National Liberation Army], the country's two largest guerrilla movements. This 26-year-old myth disappeared today, 15 December.

The installations of the FARC General Secretariat, workshops, theater, school, power plant, and commissary were completely destroyed. The powerful bombs dropped from Mirage, A-37, and Kafir planes left nothing behind but traces of the site.

Although the incursion has been slow and they can only advance 50 meters each day, the Army succeeded today in occupying the residence of Manuel Marulanda, alias Tirofijo:

[Begin recording of Operations Commander General Luis Humberto Correa] We have under our control the last camp, which is Hueco Frio, the residence of the leaders of the self-styled FARC. Minutes ago you heard over the radio that Tirofijo's former residence and the communications center were secured. [end recording]

Tirofijo's residence was located in an area known as Hueco Frio, which the Army considers the most difficult to penetrate. The residence of Alfonso Cano [member of FARC's People's Army] was in this place, which is known as Hueco Frio by the guerrillas themselves. Violent clashes are currently taking place behind this hill. [passage omitted]

Gaviria Closes Congress Session, Warns Rebels

PA1712035190 Bogota Inravision Television
Cadena 1 in Spanish 0100 GMT 17 Dec 90

[Text] President Gaviria today gave another example of breaking with tradition. Ana Milena Munoz de Gaviria, contrary to custom, sat next to President Gaviria during the closing ceremony at Congress. The first lady customarily sits in the box while the president gives his speech.

Regarding President Gaviria's speech, the two main issues were peace and the future. Gaviria, when making reference to the violence unleashed by the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia and the National Liberation Army, warned:

[Begin Gaviria recording, in progress] ...to those who insist on responding with violence and terrorism despite the generous and repeated invitations to join civilian life, we will implement the law with all its force and use the weapons of democracy. [end recording]

Regarding the future, President Gaviria said that the Constituent Assembly will not eliminate the Constitution by the stroke of a hand.

[Begin Gaviria recording] The Constituent Assembly has the responsibility of reforming the Constitution, but it does not have the responsibility of governing, nor carrying out administrative, judicial, or legislative duties. [end recording]

The liberal congressmen took advantage of the closing ceremony to score their last victory of the year. In a note signed by senators and congressmen, they announced former President Alfonso Lopez Michelsen as the Liberal Party's sole presidential candidate. In light of the

National Liberal Party convention to be held in February 1991, they took the lead by presenting Lopez Michelsen as the party's candidate, preempting the announcement of candidates by other Liberal Party members.

President Gaviria said the work of the Congress, which concluded today, was the first step toward the construction of the future.

Extradited Citizen Criticizes U.S. Justice System

PA1512030290 Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish
9 Dec 90 p 9b

[Communique issued by Hernan Buchelli Ortiz, Colombian citizen extradited to the United States; place and date not given]

[Text]Public Communique

Hernan Buchelli Ortiz, Colombian, of age, extradited to the United States under the Colombian Government's Resolution Number 231 of 5 September 1990

Charges

- That the Colombian Government received a copy of an indictment from the Florida Southern District Federal Court from the U.S. Government. The indictment charged me of three things. The first charge was for importing controlled substances, the second for distributing controlled substances, and the last for laundering money.
- The Colombian Government authorized my extradition, "but only for the charge concerning the distribution of a controlled substance that is referred to in Section 841 (a)(1) of Title 21 of the U.S. code; it denied my extradition concerning the other charges."
- According to international law, the U.S. Government can (could) only try me for that charge.
- Upon arrival at the court, I discovered that the charge for which I was extradited **did not** exist. In other words, the Colombian Government was deceived by unclear documents.
- Since the charge **did not** exist, others were attributed to me and, when I protested, I was forced, through psychological torture, to declare myself guilty of other actions. This attitude violates **all** my rights.
- Through my family, I reported this irregularity to the Colombian Government (Foreign Ministry, Ministry of Justice, Human Rights Counselor, and Colombian Consulate in Miami). The Colombian Government has done **nothing** in my favor to date; it has not even sent an official to visit me and investigate the charges.
- The public prosecutor's office has been exerting psychological pressure on me to negotiate my release by accusing other Colombians whom I **do not** know and

against whom I have **no** complaint. This is how the evidence against our fellow citizens is prepared in North America.

—Furthermore, since I have resisted the psychological pressure and have stuck to the position that I **cannot** be tried except for the charge for which I was delivered, the court has changed the accusation to render it more onerous. When I protested against this violation, the public prosecutor notified me, my lawyer, and my wife that a **negotiation had been carried out with the Colombian Government** to change the accusation and the charges for which I was extradited.

The Colombians' rights are **not** respected in North America, and we are discriminated against in **everything** within the system. The guarantees demanded by international law for everyone facing a trial do not exist. The Colombian Government is aware of this and, as far as I know, it does **not** do a thing.

My wife and eldest daughter, who are in Miami, can bear witness in any (judicial or administrative) office to what I have said.

Mr. President, from the prison in which I am confined, before the Colombian people I beg you to intervene and defend the Colombian law (which I swear I abide by) that is unknown in the United States and, therefore, to intervene diplomatically in my case. Furthermore, given these absurdities, I beg you to suspend the extraditions and try our people in our own country.

Yours truly,
Hernan Buchelli Ortiz

Car Bomb Explodes in Medellin, Injures 5

PA1512045790 Paris AFP in Spanish 0420 GMT
15 Dec 90

[Text] Medellin, 14 Dec (AFP)—The Colombian Police have reported that a bomb attack this evening in Medellin, the second most important city in Colombia and located in the northwestern part of the country, wounded five people and caused extensive property damage.

According to preliminary reports, a charge of at least 10 kg of TNT containing steel fragments [estopin] and provided with a slow fuse exploded across from an aerobics exercise center in the western end of Medellin. The bomb destroyed the front of the building.

Official sources stated that five of the occupants in a vehicle that was passing by the building experienced relatively serious injuries and were taken to a medical center. Eleven other stores were affected by the explosion. No one has claimed responsibility for the attack so far.

This is the third attack carried out in Medellin during the last 48 hours. On Wednesday, 12 December, seven policemen were killed and four others wounded when a police truck was attacked. The Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) claimed responsibility for

that attack. Later on the same day small explosives were thrown at a bank branch office.

12 Killed, 16 Wounded in Medellin Massacre

PA1512134790 Bogota Radio Cadena Nacional
in Spanish 1200 GMT 15 Dec 90

[Text] Medellin—There was violence last night in the Antioquia Department capital. Twelve persons died and another 16 were wounded during an attack on a public establishment and as a result of a bomb explosion in front of a sports center.

According to police reports, six heavily armed people threw a grenade and opened fire on patrons of the Esturpis Tavern, on the corner of Road 50 and 29th Street, in Itagui Municipality, south of Medellin.

As a result of this criminal action the following people died: Dagoberto Agudelo Valencia, Jorge Enrique Betancur Quisenó, Jaime Leon Lopez Garcia, Alberto Medina, Carlos Mario Filusagua, Monica Isabel Molina Cano, Luis Fernando Lopez, Jorge Ivan Perez Franco, Rogelio Osorio Taborda, and three more persons who have not yet been identified.

The wounded are: Ruben Espinoza, Julio Cesar Agudelo Morales, Carlos Mario Medina Restrepo, Andres Agudelo Bermudez, Adriana Londono Zapata, and an 18-year-old woman. They were taken to the Medellin Polyclinic.

Meanwhile, unidentified people placed a dynamite charge in front of the Caraslindas Gymnasium, on 33rd Street and Road 74-B, in the Bulerias sector of western Medellin. Here, 10 persons were injured and there was much property damage.

'Armed Individuals' Murder 7 in Puerto Belgica

PA1512143690 Bogota Radio Cadena Nacional
in Spanish 1241 GMT 15 Dec 90

[Text] Another regretful act of violence took place at dawn today in Antioquia Department. Seven people were killed this morning in Puerto Belgica Corregimiento, Caceres Municipality, in the Bajo Cauca Antioqueno area. We have Mayor Argemilo Villalba on the telephone:

[Reporter] Good morning, Mr. Mayor. Mr. Mayor, if you would be good enough to speak a little louder. What happened in Puerto Belgica last night?

[Villalba] At approximately 0130 this morning, several armed individuals entered Puerto Belgica Corregimiento and, to be specific, went to the departmental police inspectorship. Without uttering a word, they murdered Police Inspector Apolinar Rivera, his wife Osiris Diaz Pachecho, the inspectorship's secretary (Daisy Maria Rodriguez), and her husband Jairo Escobar. Immediately afterwards they murdered watchman (Alberto Daborda), and one other person whose identity has not

yet been established. After this, the armed individuals moved on and murdered another man, Ramiro Gaviria.

[Reporter] Mr. Mayor, following your preliminary investigations, can you tell us what prompted the murders?

[Villalba] I am completely at a loss to explain what prompted the events. The armed individuals have said absolutely nothing concerning the incident.

[Reporter] All in all, seven people were killed, Mayor Argemilo?

[Villalba] Exactly, seven people.

[Reporter] Seven people were murdered in Puerto Belgica. Mr. Mayor, can you tell us to which political party the police inspector belonged?

[Villalba] Hello?

[Reporter] Inspector Apolinar Rivera's political affiliation?

[Villalba] What?

[Reporter] The inspector's political affiliation, to which party did he belong?

[Villalba] Apolinar Rivera was a liberal from the faction led by Bernardo Guerra Serna.

[Reporter] Have you been able to establish if the inspector had been threatened with death before last night's events?

[Villalba] He was my very close friend and I never knew of any death threats.

[Reporter] Mayor Argemilo Villalba, our colleagues in Bogota are listening to you and have questions to ask you concerning these incidents. Similar incidents have taken place in Bajo Cauca Antioqueno. Francisco Tulan from Bogota has a question for you.

[Tulan] Thank you, Mr. Mayor, what was the public order situation in the area? Did any particular paramilitary group or guerrilla group operate there? What was the public order situation days prior to the massacre?

[Villalba] [Words indistinct] the prior incidents involved the (?La Paz) area [words indistinct] in Puerto Belgica.

[Reporter] Mr. Mayor was there police surveillance in the corregimiento?

[Villalba] No. None of the corregimientos have police surveillance.

[Tulan] A military presence in the vicinity? Anything?

[Villalba] No. The military is found only in the municipal capitals.

[Tulan] How far is Puerto Belgica from the urban periphery of Caceres, Mr. Mayor?

[Villalba] It is 10 minutes away—12 km.

[Tulan] Oh, it is relatively near. Have investigators and police and Army reinforcements arrived in the region?

[Villalba] [Words indistinct].

FARC Rebel Force Sets Aires Airplane on Fire

PA1512191190 Bogota Inravisión Television
Cadena 1 in Spanish 1800 GMT 15 Dec 90

[Report by Juan Carlos Santacruz]

[Text] This is a strange last-minute report. Aires Airlines plane HK-3195, which is responsible for flight 550 between Neiva and the Villagarzon Airport, in Mocoa, landed at 0800 this morning at the Villagarzon Airport. There, a group of 10 guerrillas forced the crew and the passengers out of the plane. They claimed to belong to the Eighth Front of the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia [FARC]. The guerrillas then splashed the plane with gasoline and set it on fire.

Airplane Captain Alejandro d'Franciscu, the plane's pilot, reported the incident to Aires Airline, which issued a communique and gave us this information.

Patriotic Front Claims 70 Peasants 'Missing'

PA1512214990 Bogota Inravisión Television
Cadena 2 in Spanish 0000 GMT 15 Dec 90

[Text] In a communique issued a few minutes ago, the leadership of the Patriotic Union [UP] announced that 70 peasants from the La Uribe area are missing. It also said that Army bombings have resulted in victims among the civilian population. According to the UP, the rural area of the municipality of Cabrera in Cundinamarca Department has been bombed.

7 Men Killed by Presumed ELN Members

PA1612022590 Bogota Inravisión Television
Cadena 2 in Spanish 0106 GMT 16 Dec 90

[Report by Maria Cristina Melo]

[Text] Colombian Policemen Felix Sarria Galindes and Aldemar Aguirre were wounded by three men riding a taxi that was stolen a few minutes before the attack. The criminals machine-gunned the Immediate Attention Center facilities which the policemen were guarding and fled. The men abandoned the car 10 blocks from the scene of the attack. The two policemen are currently out of danger and recovering at Nuestra Senora de Fatima Police Hospital.

In addition, seven people were killed in an incident that seems to be a settling of accounts among criminals. The attack took place at La Primavera Corregimiento, Bolivar Municipality in the northern part of Valle del Cauca Department.

A group of 15 armed men apparently belonging to the ELN [Army of National Liberation] entered La Montana

Bar and shot seven of the men who were at the bar. The men did not have an opportunity to defend themselves.

The seven men belonged to a gang of hired assassins that were wanted by the authorities. The seven men had been held responsible for the murder of seven members of a family massacred at La Tulia Corregimiento in Valle del Cauca Department on 11 July.

Paraguay

Minister To Request OAS Observers for Elections

PY1512224290 Asuncion ULTIMA HORA in Spanish
14 Dec 90 p 7

[Text] President Andres Rodriguez has instructed the foreign minister to send a note to the OAS secretary general requesting a delegation of observers, in compliance with the 1989 General Assembly resolution, to verify the development of municipal elections scheduled for 26 May 1991.

This request is being made at the initiative of the executive branch in compliance with the interest expressed by political parties to provide absolute openness and to guarantee the Paraguayan voters' right to participate in these elections.

This national government is the first to be concerned about realization of the first municipal elections in the country's political history and of implementation of the new Electoral Code, which guarantees direct vote, hoping that the elections will be held in accordance with the legal provisions and in a climate of absolute openness so that all possible fraud will be banished.

Foreign Minister To Visit Italy, Spain

PY1512182290 Asuncion HOY in Spanish 15 Dec 90
p 17

[Text] Foreign Minister Alexis Frutos Vaesken left for Italy yesterday to hold talks with EEC leaders.

The foreign minister said he will hold talks with EEC representatives in conjunction with members of the Rio Group. He noted that he will propose the rapprochement of our country with the EEC to request financial support for some of the national government's priority projects and a revision of Paraguay's foreign debt.

On his way to Italy the foreign minister will make a technical stopover in Madrid, where he will hold talks with Spanish Government officials on cooperation agreements. One project that will reportedly be discussed concerns financing for a plan to restore the historical architectural heritage of Asuncion. Plans for this project are included in the program designed by the commission for the celebration of the 500th anniversary of the discovery of America.

Senate Approves Apal Privatization Bill

PY1412234890 Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish
14 Dec 90 p 8

[Excerpt] Yesterday the Senate approved the Paraguayan Alcohol Administration (Apal) privatization bill as submitted by the Chamber of Deputies. The bill, which is now a national law with the Senate approval, will now be submitted to the executive branch, which will have 10 working days for its promulgation.

Article 1 of the new law states: "Decree-law No. 10/90 on privatization of the Paraguayan Alcohol Administration (Apal) and on the destination of the institution's assets and liabilities is hereby approved. The special commission created in Article 7 of this law will establish the manner of transfer, either by public or private bids." [passage omitted].

Peru**Gunmen Murder Change 90 Deputy in Lima**

PY1712111490 Madrid EFE in English 0738 GMT
17 Dec 90

[Text] Lima, Dec 17, (EFE)—Gunmen burst into a club on the outskirts of the capital and gunned down a parliamentary deputy belonging to Peruvian President Alberto Fujimori's Change 90 party, police said Monday.

Alejandro Victorio Mendoza was shot dead Sunday at a Lima club for people from his constituency in the department of Huancavelica, they said.

Three people sitting near him were injured in the attack. Two deputies from the main opposition party APRA have been murdered in Lima in the past year.

Political violence has claimed an estimated 21,000 lives in Peru since the Maoist "Shining Path" and the leftist Tupac Amaru guerrilla groups took up arms in 1980 and 1984 respectively.

U.S. Donates \$5 Million for Antidrug Effort

PY1512154090 Lima Television Peruana in Spanish
0100 GMT 14 Dec 90

[Excerpt] The U.S. Government has given \$5 million to Peru to support the struggle against drug trafficking. The funds will be directed to the National Police unit based in Santa Lucia.

U.S. Ambassador Anthony Quainton and Interior Minister Adolfo Alvarado Fournier signed a provisional agreement by which the U.S. Government will grant \$5 million to Peru to maintain a flow of funds to support the struggle against drug trafficking in Peru. [recorded passage omitted]

1,500 People Said Killed in Political Violence

PY1712023490 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1606 GMT
13 Dec 90

[Text] Lima, 13 Dec (EFE)—Socialist Senator Enrique Bernales said today that since Alberto Fujimori assumed the presidency five months ago, 1,500 persons have died as a result of political violence. This figure is equivalent to 15 percent of the total deaths caused by political violence in five years of Alan Garcia's government, the senator stressed. Bernales is chairman of a congressional committee that is evaluating the causes and effects of political violence in Peru.

In remarks to the press, Bernales predicted that by the end of 1990, the number of deaths caused by political violence in Peru will total 3,500; in other words, 400 more than in 1989.

The congressman expressed his alarm about the increase in violence in Peru, and he stated that the population does not have a uniform position on terrorism and subversion. He also referred to the fact that only 51 percent of all Peruvians, according to statistics, would denounce a neighbor if that neighbor was manufacturing explosives; this reflects society's fear of the terrorists and the "erroneous" opinion "that silence guarantees security."

"The fact is silence does not guarantee security—only a strong position on terrorism will guarantee security," Bernales said.

"If things do not change," Bernales added, "violence is going to affect more and more Peruvian families."

About 20,000 people have died in Peru since the Maoist Shining Path gang began its violent actions in the southern Department of Ayacucho in May 1980. It is also estimated that economic losses as a result of terrorist attacks in the past decade amount to \$17 billion, according to the congressional committee presided over by Bernales.

Japanese Link With Shining Path 'Worrisome'

PY1412182090 Lima Television Peruana in Spanish
1100 GMT 14 Dec 90

[Excerpts] Foreign Minister Luis Marchand Stens has announced that some countries have agreed to the designation of the new Peruvian ambassadors, stressing that this is a favorable factor for the approval by the Senate of the ambassadorial designations before the end of the current congressional period. [passage omitted]

[Begin recording] [Passage omitted]

[Unidentified reporter] There are alarming reports that the Japanese Red Army might be interested in joining the Shining Path to create more chaos in our country. What do you think about this, Mr. Foreign Minister?

[Marchand] Look, all alliances of this type are worrisome. I do not have any official or serious report to give

an opinion. It should be noted, however, that any alliance or agreement that seeks to promote subversion would be very worrisome for all of us. [end recording]

*** Shining Path's New York Spokesman Comments**

91P40067Z Lima EXPRESO in Spanish 21 Oct 90 p 11

[Text] Shining Path will not lay down its arms, and if something were to happen to "president Gonzalo" there will still be a central committee to lead the "people's war," asserted Manco de la Roca, known New York spokesman of the subversive criminal organization.

Wearing dark glasses, a hat that covered part of his face, and a scarf that completely concealed his identity, the Senderist spokesman, made his statements to the Spanish language newspaper IMPACTO published in New York.

"The Senderist bases that Alan Garcia discovered in the final months of his administration do not mean the revolution is ending. To the contrary, this is a revolution of the masses and it will continue to intensify," he remarked, after stating that a truce with the Fujimori administration is out of the question.

He said the Shining Path considers that "without state power everything is an illusion." Which means, he added, that there needs to be a complete liberation. He maintains that they cannot trust in the elections either; "since they only serve to perpetuate the social classes that have always exploited Peruvians."

The MRTA

With regard to the disputes which separate them from the MRTA [Tupac Amaru Revolutionary Movement], Manco de la Roca—a name he has adopted while in hiding—said that this organization "thinks of the revolution differently."

"They do not include the masses. They operate as a rebel group seeking freedom. But their action, instead of contributing to that freedom, is delaying it. They have worried more about spreading rumors against the Communist Party of Peru, than in undertaking a revolution," he stated.

Photo caption 1. p. 11: The interview of this Shining Path spokesman, shown here holding a banner which reads "Support the Revolution," was published in the New York newspaper IMPACTO [19-25 Sep 90].

\$40-Million Credit Line Established for Companies

PY1712112890 Lima Television Peruana in Spanish
0100 GMT 14 Dec 90

[Text] The Andean Development Corporation has opened a new credit line for Peru for \$40 million. The credits will be allocated to Peruvian exporting companies that want to buy imported capital goods. These goods may be financed to a maximum of 85 percent of

their value. Industrial, fishing, and agroindustrial companies will be entitled to these credits.

Committee on Telephone Taps for Political Use

PY1512194490 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1619 GMT
15 Dec 90

[Excerpts] Lima, 15 Dec (EFE)—Telephone taps for political purposes are frequent in Peru and affect several of the country's most influential personalities, Javier Diez Canseco said today. Diez Canseco is chairman of the congressional committee responsible for investigating this.

The committee has concluded that "telephones have been consistently and extensively tapped; these taps have nothing to do with national defense or drug trafficking, but have only one objective—political," Diez Canseco told a Lima radio station.

Telephone taps affect politicians, congressmen, union leaders, candidates for 1990 general elections, ministers, and reporters. The head of the National Intelligence Service, specifically, is responsible for these actions, Diez Canseco said. [passage omitted]

The commission's report was submitted to the Chamber of Deputies and to the National Prosecutor General to find those responsible for this action and present charges to the Judicial Branch.

Congress Approves Budget Bill, Currency Change

PY1612024890 Lima Television Peruana in Spanish
0100 GMT 16 Dec 90

[Excerpts] The National Congress closed the regular 1990 session this afternoon. The Senate approved a currency change from the inti to the new sol and the creation of a committee to investigate the attack on the Sereal Company oil camp in Tarapoto. [passage omitted]

The 1991 annual budget bill was also approved last night in a marathon session. [passage omitted]

Fuel Prices Increase for Dealers, Public

PY1712021090 Lima Television Peruana in Spanish
0000 GMT 17 Dec 90

[Excerpt] There are new prices for gasoline beginning today. The 84-octane gas costs 1.1 million intis per gallon and the 95-octane gas costs 1.5 million intis per gallon; these new prices represent 63 percent and 29 percent price increases, respectively, when compared to prices that went into effect on 8 August as part of the economic package. The prices of kerosene, cooking gas, and diesel oil have also increased, both for dealers and the public. [passage omitted]

*** Contention Noted Between Houses of Congress**

91SM0099E Lima EL COMERCIO in Spanish
2 Nov 90 p A6

[Text] The "open war" that has broken out between the Senate and the Chamber of Deputies, in which the former has accused the latter of apathy in carrying out its legislative task, has prompted Deputy Aurelio Loret de Mola of Solidarity and Democracy (SODE) to respond immediately with, among other things, the accusation that the Upper House "is passing unconstitutional bills."

Loret de Mola cited several examples in support of his argument, including three that clearly prove, according to him, that despite the Senate's boasting in recent days that it has passed an interesting number of bills, there are so many irregularities that the necessary corrections have had to be introduced in the Chamber of Deputies.

These corrections are necessary to avoid serious problems in the future that would have arisen if the bills had been passed in their original form.

One of the examples cited by Loret de Mola as a clear violation of the Constitution is the bill "providing for complementary municipal elections, which is unconstitutional because it even indicates the date for these elections. The president of the republic is the only one who can exercise this power."

He added that the same bill "attempts to modify all electoral legislation, which is inadmissible."

Another example he mentioned "is the bill to establish the Amnesty Law, passed by the Senate and sent to the Chamber of Deputies for review. It proposes to remove several crimes from the Penal Code, which is also inadmissible. For this reason, the committees in my chamber (Deputies) are working to correct these gross errors."

The third case, according to Loret de Mola, "involves the bill written to deactivate the National Social Communication System (SINACOSO), which merely says, 'The SINACOSO is deactivated,' without specifying what should happen to Peruvian Radio Television (RTP) or to Peru Publishing, which includes the official gazette EL PERUANO and others. Nor does it say what course Andina should follow, among other things."

"Consequently, we deputies have to correct the gross errors in this large quantity of bills passed by the Senate. Moreover, it formed investigative committees that are parallel to committees of a similar nature which already existed in the Chamber of Deputies. This is a useless duplication of legislative functions, as it cannot censure or subpoena or lodge constitutional accusations," he concluded.

*** Senator Criticizes Change 90-APRA Alliance**

91SM0099D Lima EL COMERCIO in Spanish
10 Nov 90 p A6

[Text] Senator Raul Ferrero Costa of the Liberty Movement (ML) has issued a warning against the parliamentary coalition formed by Change 90 and the American Popular Revolutionary Alliance (APRA), noting that the ruling party is engaging in the continuism that was rejected by the voters at the polls.

Regarding the vote in the Chamber of Deputies on the charges lodged against former President Alan Garcia, Ferrero said that aside from the specific case, there is cause for concern about Change 90's future political behavior, given the revelation that its members vote on party orders.

"Voting, as an expression of will, should be an act of conscience, of conviction. Therefore, it should be an expression of what each congressman thinks. Casting a political vote on party orders runs counter to this principle, as it is the product of deal-making and stems from orders issued from above, violating independence and freedom of conscience," declared the senator.

He observed that what happened in the Chamber of Deputies is not an isolated incident, as "very probably we will have to live with this impunity and the continuation of acts that have seriously damaged the country in the last five years."

He called into question Change 90's promises of rooting out corruption, saying, "it is impossible to understand how a movement that was born with a promise for change, a break with the custom of making deals, can begin to forge alliances with those who were responsible for everything it wanted to change, who left the country in economic ruin."

Ferrero recalled that this latest vote is a repetition of the same coalition that the two groups formed when they refused to allow Congress to debate the second supplementary credit, for the second quarter of this year, and when they supported APRA in killing the vote to censure the president of the Chamber of Deputies for failing to submit more than 47 bills originated in the Senate for his chamber's debate or consideration.

"The coalition between Change 90 and APRA is disappointing. It is against the country's interests, considering that in the recent general elections 81 percent of the electorate voted for a change and against continuation of the policies imposed by the Aprist Party," he concluded.

*** Chamber of Deputies' Decision Questioned**

91SM0099C Lima CARETAS in Spanish
12 Nov 90 p 25

[Report by Fernando Rospigliosi]

[Text] The Chamber of Deputies' decision to reject the constitutional charges against former President Garcia is

in keeping with the Peruvian tradition of allowing the members of the previous government total impunity.

This unwritten rule of Peruvian politics has been observed over the years, regardless of the ideology of the governments or whether they were civilian or military. (Dictatorships, to be sure, have a greater propensity to take revenge against their predecessors, among other reasons to justify their own existence.)

The unwritten rule could be expressed as follows: "Never punish the predecessor, because that way my successor will not punish me."

This rule complements another, more well-known rule: Virulently criticize the outgoing government and accuse it of all the defects in the world. Thus, the government that is leaving office is the most corrupt, incompetent, terrible government in history.

It happens, then, that in the months prior to the end of a regime, its adversaries—who are always numerous—heap all kinds of accusations upon it. And they promise to carry out investigations and impose sanctions "to the ultimate consequences, no matter who falls."

The result is, as we know from experience, that no one ever falls. Much less those on top.

In short, much ado about nothing. Excessive criticism about those who are leaving, and then total impunity in practice. Both extremes are harmful.

It is not, of course, a matter of engaging in cannibalism and feeding upon the prominent figures of past governments. That would eliminate any possibility of democratic coexistence among Peruvians. A certain amount of cordiality and tolerance is always appropriate.

On the other hand, it is not good for democracy to allow more or less obvious cases of corruption, or in this case, flagrant violations of human rights, to go unpunished. Especially since what the Chamber of Deputies was debating was not Alan Garcia's guilt or innocence. It was just a question of deciding whether there was sufficient evidence to lift his immunity and turn him over to the judiciary, which would then prosecute him.

Thanks to the courageous and conscientious "Report" by the Ames Commission of 1988, the details of the case were known. In any democratic and civilized country in the world, that would have been grounds for prosecution. But the Chamber of Deputies has barred it.

The alliance between Change 90 and the American Popular Revolutionary Alliance (APRA) for this purpose is purely a marriage of convenience. There is no justification for it, ideological or otherwise.

For President Fujimori, the exoneration of Garcia has another meaning as well. If Garcia is prosecuted by the courts, the case will be reopened. And the former president will not be the only one to be pilloried; so will military officials, who are untouchable in Peru. No

military officer has ever been tried or convicted by a regular court for a violation of human rights, after more than a decade of war.

Fujimori, who has formed an alliance with one sector of the military, has therefore been precluded from contributing to a reopening of the case.

Finally, APRA closed ranks around Garcia. "Alvists" and "Alanists" defended the former president tooth and nail. And they know that if one of them falls, all are in jeopardy. If it happens to Alan today, tomorrow it could happen to Remigio, and the next day, Alva Castro.

Incidentally, this is one reason why the Aprists hated and feared Vargas Llosa so much. He was not a professional politician, and he might have violated certain rules.

Conclusion: Peruvian democracy is still weak and limited.

* Fujimori Comments on Role of State, Media

91SM0099B Lima CARETAS in Spanish
29 Oct 90 p 32

[Statement by President Alberto Fujimori responding to a request by CARETAS staff on the magazine's 40th anniversary—first paragraph is CARETAS introduction]

[Text] The election of Alberto Fujimori, 52, has attracted worldwide attention. This is an unprecedented development that has something to do with the prehistory of the Andean people. It reflects the social and cultural abyss that persists in Peru and the prestige that Japan enjoys, and it also presages a future in which the progress of communications will promote a melting pot of worldwide dimensions. But Fujimori's triumph reflects, above all, the mettle and cunning of a solitary man, a novice politician who, beyond his errors and flaws, has shown courage and decisiveness this week in handling two controversial issues in the government.

I think that many things have changed in 40 years, and many others have remained the same. In 1950 there was a sharper, more visible difference and distance between the official Peru, with all its frivolity, and the real Peru, with all its tragedy.

Today the real Peru has won many battles, though not the war itself, but I am certain it will win that war in a not too distant future.

It is very interesting to note, within this perspective, how individuals and institutions of the official, formal Peru have adapted opportunistically to the times. But camouflages and disguises are never perfect, and the frivolity that characterizes this deteriorating world always comes to the surface.

I believe that the same can be said of some of the mass media. In many cases we have kept up with the times with regard to technology, but the old vices such as manipulation and distortion, irrelevant gossip, and

banality, which replace the real news, are the same as they were 40 years ago, in some cases corrected and augmented.

I do not want to give the impression that I am a pessimist; quite the contrary. I believe that a new culture is being created in Peru, one based on work. It is a culture that rejects double standards and social climbing, and in the end it will prevail. I salute here and now these early manifestations of the new Peru.

Uruguay

Details of Agreements With Banks Reported

PY1712014490 Montevideo Radio El Espectador Network in Spanish 1000 GMT 13 Dec 90

[Text] The Ministry of Economy and Finance briefed several political sectors yesterday on the renegotiation of the Uruguayan foreign debt, on the portion of the debt that will be repaid and that is [words indistinct] of banks. The negotiations deal with a \$1.641 billion figure. According to information supplied to El Espectador, \$550 million of the debt will be repurchased at 56 percent of its value. Another \$515 million will be rescheduled over 30 years, but no payments will be made on either the principal or interest [as heard]. Another \$425 million will be rescheduled over a 17-year [as heard] period with a seven-year grace period.

How has Uruguay negotiated debt disbursements? Uruguay will pay \$436 million. How will this payment be made? The creditor banks that rescheduled the \$425 million figure over a 17-year period loaned \$90 million. The IMF provided \$45 million; the World Bank, \$80 million; and the Inter-American Development Bank, \$130 million. In addition, \$91 million will come from Central Bank reserves. All these figures add up to \$436 million.

According to information provided to El Espectador, the Central Bank will supply the \$91 million in cash or by using its gold reserves, depending on the time when the \$91 million will have to be provided.

Uruguay will have to buy U.S. bonds worth \$111 million. These bonds will be deposited in the United States, but Uruguay will collect the corresponding interest. The bonds will be cashed in 30 years, a time when repayment of the Uruguayan debt will already be concluded. The bonds will thus serve as a type of guarantee for the operation.

This is, according to information supplied to EL ESPECTADOR, the accord Uruguayan negotiators have reached with creditor banks.

Missionary Attacked for Work With Indians

PY1512225890 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0320 GMT 13 Dec 90

[Text] Montevideo, 12 Dec (EFE)—Uruguayan lay missionary Alberto Pedro Alvez Mansilla, 30, returned to our country today after being kidnapped and tortured three times and after receiving death threats for his work in defense of the Brazilian Indian tribes in Matto Grosso State. Alvez Mansilla had reported his situation through the Catholic Church and Uruguayan authorities made possible for him to return to save his life.

The missionary was working in Ponta Pora where he denounced unending human rights violations against the "landless" people in that area.

Alvez Mansilla has been receiving threats since July 1990 and was kidnapped for the first time on 12 September. During the kidnapping, he was tortured. Alvez Mansilla said he was beaten and dragged through the Ponta Pora streets in broad daylight and before the total indifference of the inhabitants, who live in terror of the "Matto Grosso do Sul Terrorist Group" ["Grupo Terrorista Matto Grosso do Sul"].

In his opinion, "the law of the large estate owners prevails" in that region, "and it is impossible to oppose them"; meanwhile, the world knows very little about the fate of the "landless" people, the exploited Indians of Matto Grosso State.

Venezuela

Perez Speech Upon Signing of State Reform Pact

PA1512160490 Caracas Venezolana de Television Canal 8 in Spanish 1606 GMT 4 Dec 90

[Speech by President Carlos Andres Perez during ceremony to sign a state reform pact; at the Congress Building in Caracas on 4 December—live]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] This is an historic event. I do not hesitate in so describing it despite the rhetorical abuse that this term usually must take. Today democracy meets with itself to become even more democratic and more committed to Venezuela. This ceremony confirms that we have truly never wasted historical opportunities and that we are taking advantage of this opportunity. We are amid a crisis of growth and maturity, now that commissions and deficiencies have emerged. In this historic meeting, the political parties, facing their essential responsibility to heed the clamor of the entire country, are to sign this state reform pact. The parties were summoned by their own convictions and their full understanding of present demands and challenges. This event shows the absolute inconsistency of those who believe that our democracy is at a low point in its ability to recover and that our democracy is at its weakest point in creating an in-depth consensus because the parties

have not assumed the role assigned to them by the dynamics of the democratic system.

Signing this pact demonstrates the contrary. It is definitive proof of what I asserted in a letter I addressed to the group of personalities headed by Dr. Arturo Uslar Pietri on 10 August, when these distinguished citizens presented to me the need to give fresh impetus to the reform of the Venezuelan state. I said at the time that Venezuelan democracy lives a hopeful, promising future of fundamental change and positive turns. The country has not stopped. There are processes under way, even if the overt appearance of the crisis seems to indicate the opposite. All the political forces, with the assistance of this group of personalities, have reached a sound consensus for this pact with an intense and positive coordinating effort by the Presidential Commission for the Reform of the State and what, of necessity, had to be detailed in lengthy debates. This historical and structural crisis we are experiencing is the consequence of deep and positive transformations that Venezuelan society has experienced. The institutions designed and developed to organize and lead the country have already given everything positive they have to give. [passage omitted]

Guyana

Possible Cabinet Reduction, Devaluation Hinted

FL1612235590 Bridgetown CANA in English
2142 GMT 16 Dec 90

[Report by Rickey Singh]

[Text] Bridgetown, Barbados, Dec 16, CANA—The Guyana Government has taken the first legal steps towards holding new general elections, with the preparation of two draft bills dealing with the compilation of a new voters register and counting of ballots at the place of poll. The draft bills, already shared with the main opposition People's Progressive Party (PPP), are to be published, possibly this week, one official source told CANA on Sunday.

He, however, said differences remained between the government of President Desmond Hoyte and the opposition parties, grouped under the Patriotic Coalition for Democracy (PCD), on the arrangements for the forthcoming election which, constitutionally, must be held not later than May 2, 1991.

The composition and functions of the elections commission and the period for national registration of voters are reported among the more sensitive issues still to be resolved, since the government bowed to opposition demands in October for a new electoral roll and preliminary counting of votes at the place of poll.

The government has been resisting opposition demands for a new elections commission along the Jamaican model, which ensures the independence of the institution from the control and influence of any one party, and with both government and opposition having to agree on

the choice of chairman. The PCD has now repeated its demands for the restructuring of the current elections commission, including the removal of its chairman Sir Harold Bollers. The independence of Sir Harold, like that of the commission itself, has been a controversial matter even prior to the last general election of December 9, 1985, which the opposition parties said was "massively rigged," a charge rejected by the government.

Word of the two bills comes amid growing reports that the government is planning a further devaluation of the Guyana dollar and a "substantial" reduction in the size of the cabinet in accordance with new initiatives linked to the country's 1989-1991 Economic Recovery Programme (ERP). One source, who asked not to be identified, said the announcements about the cabinet reduction and new devaluation could come in President Hoyte's next broadcast to the nation, likely before Christmas.

It is also expected that there will shortly be official indication about amending the Constitution to provide for new presidential and parliamentary elections beyond May 2 next year. Sources explained to CANA that the government felt it would take a minimum of 25 weeks for effective house-to-house enumeration to be carried out across this 83,000 square mile country for the compilation of a new voters list. But the opposition parties of the PCD grouping have rejected the government's argument and favour arrangements that could ensure new elections by May or very shortly thereafter.

The current five-year term of the ruling People's National Congress (PNC) ends next February when the Parliament should normally be prorogued for new elections to take place by May 2, 1991. If, according to the current thinking of the government, it would require at least six months to register an estimated 400,000 eligible voters, 18 years and over—the opposition parties estimate that there no more than 350,000 electors—then, according to one member of the elections commission, amendment to the Constitution was "absolutely necessary".

The government, sources explained, would prefer consensus for the necessary constitutional amendment to provide for elections beyond next May 2—one source has hinted of a possible delay until December 1991. The PNC, however, has the required two thirds parliamentary majority to approve any such amendments.

During his October 12-13 visit here, former U.S. president, Jimmy Carter, shared his experience as an observer of Nicaragua's preparations for elections that led to the defeat of the Sandinista government. With the creation of special registration centres, voters for the elections in Nicaragua, with a population of some 3.6 million, were registered in five days over a five-week period. Guyana's population is estimated at less than three quarters of a million.

President Carter had also pointed out to representatives of the government and opposition parties, in support of his case for counting of ballots at the place of poll, that in

both Nicaragua and the Dominican Republic, with some 4,600 polling centres, there were no problems in counting the votes where they were cast.

The PNC has been in power since December 1964 when it first teamed up with the small united force to form a coalition government. The PNC government subsequently introduced a series of legislative measures that gave it effective control of the election machinery—the centrepiece of ongoing controversy with the opposition parties and civic groups calling for electoral reform and an independent elections commission.

Hoyte Orders Probe Into GTC Allegations

*FL1412142090 Bridgetown CANA in English
1141 GMT 14 Dec 90*

[Text] Georgetown, Guyana, Dec 14, CANA—Guyana's President, Desmond Hoyte, has ordered a probe into allegations of corruption levelled at management personnel and engineers of the state Guyana Telecommunications Corporation (GTC). The Guyanese leader has appointed Robert Corbin, deputy prime minister with responsibility for public utilities, to launch the investigation of the company that runs the telephone service.

The move was prompted by a front page article in the government-controlled CHRONICLE newspaper which

said that the corporation had taken a decision to penalise all those who report acts of corruption involving the GTC. This decision, the CHRONICLE claimed, was taken on November 29, the day the paper had published allegations of corruption.

One subscriber had complained that GTC engineers had switched her telephone line to a neighbour although she did not owe GTC money. The woman was told that her service would never be restored, the newspaper said. Another subscriber claimed they had disconnected her phone because she refused to pay a 2,000 dollar (one guy dollar equals 2.2 U.S. cents) bribe demanded by engineers. The CHRONICLE's editor-in-chief, Adam Harris, whose phone has ceased working for months would suffer the same fate, the newspaper reported the GTC management as saying.

"These persons may contact whom they wish since the corporation will insist that the faults are due to technical problems," the paper said.

"These persons' names have been placed in a black book."

GTC general manager Michael Welch has labelled the CHRONICLE's reports "very irresponsible journalism" and "unfortunate," according to the independent STABROEK NEWS newspaper.